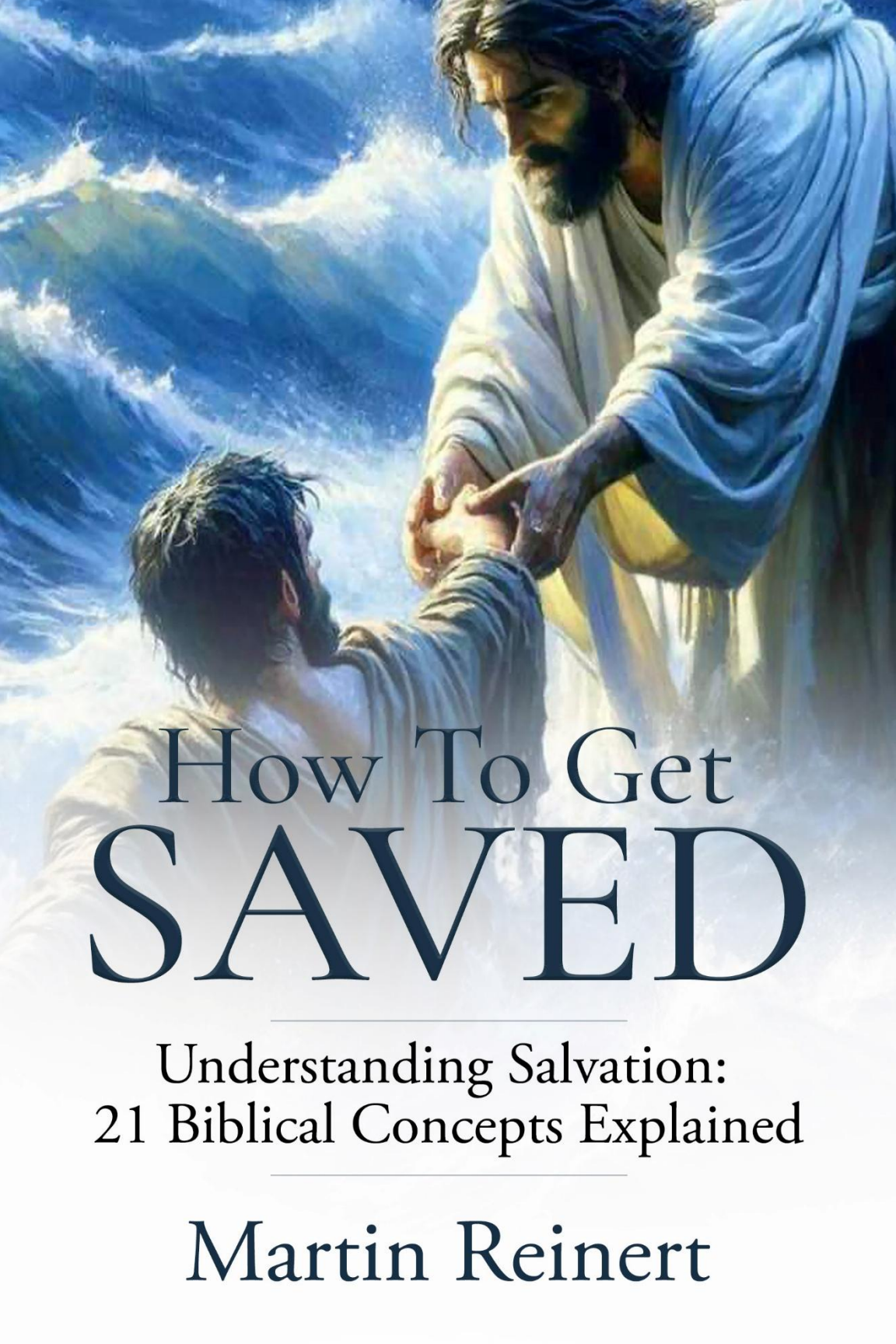




How To Get SAVED

Understanding Salvation:
21 Biblical Concepts Explained

Martin Reinert

How To Get Saved RIGHT AWAY!

Dear friend,

I'm so glad you're holding this book in your hands. Whether someone gave it to you or you picked it up yourself, I believe this moment isn't an accident. God has been reaching out to you. Even now, He's inviting you to stop running, to stop hiding, and to come close to Him.

You may not realize it yet, but He has been with you through every high and every low. Through every dark thought, every mistake, every quiet cry you never told anyone about. He saw it all. And still, He loves you.

You were created for more than just getting by. More than chasing after peace in things that don't last. You were made for relationship with the God who made the universe — the One who knows your name and loves you. But there's something that stands in the way: sin.

Sin isn't just a list of wrong things we've done. It's a broken condition we're born into. It separates us from the God who is perfectly holy. That's why, even when we try to be good or to fix things ourselves, we still fall short. The Bible says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". Romans 3:23 No exceptions. We all need a Savior. You've probably felt that struggle — the guilt, the emptiness, the sense that something is missing. That's the effect of sin. And no amount of effort, kindness, or good intentions can erase it.

But God didn't leave us in that hopeless state. He didn't wait for us to come crawling to Him. He came to us. Jesus Christ — the Son of God — stepped into our world. He lived without sin, yet He chose to take on the punishment we deserved. He willingly went to the cross and died a brutal death. Not because He was guilty, but because we were.

Think about that. The Son of God, nailed to a cross, bleeding and dying, because He loves *you*. Because He wants *you* to be free from the power of sin and death. Because He knew that only His blood could pay the price.

But that's not the end of the story. After three days in the grave, Jesus rose again. Death could not hold Him. As it says in Romans 6:9, "Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him." The tomb is empty. He is alive, and because of that, *you* can have new life too — not just someday in heaven, but starting now.

He offers you forgiveness — not based on what you've done, but based on what He did. He offers you peace — not as the world gives, but peace that fills your soul even in the storms. And He offers you purpose — a reason to live, a reason to hope, a reason to get up tomorrow and know that your life matters.

But friend, this gift isn't automatic. It's offered freely, but it must be received. God doesn't force Himself on anyone. He waits for your "yes."

To receive this salvation, you must first admit the truth — you are a sinner in need of forgiveness. You must come to God in repentance, asking for forgiveness, turning away from sin and turning toward Him. You must believe with all your heart that Jesus died for your sins and that God raised Him from the dead. And you must confess, out loud and without shame, that Jesus Christ is Lord. Not just Lord in general, but *your* Lord.

This is more than a decision — it's a surrender. It's handing over the steering wheel of your life and saying, "Jesus, I trust You now. Lead me. Change me. I'm Yours." And when you do that, something incredible happens. God washes you clean. He adopts you as His child. His Spirit comes to live in you. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." 2. Corinthians 5:17. From that moment on, you walk in newness of life.

You'll still face hard days. But you won't face them alone. The Holy Spirit will guide you, comfort you, and give you strength. You'll start growing. You'll see changes. You'll hunger for God's Word. You'll want to pray. You'll love differently. Live differently. Not perfectly, but faithfully. Because you will belong to Jesus.

He is calling you today. Not tomorrow. Not when you feel more ready. Right now. Will you answer?

This isn't about joining a religion or ticking a box. It's about being saved — rescued — from the penalty of sin, and brought into the arms of a loving Father who has waited patiently for you. Your whole eternity depends on what you do with Jesus Christ.

So I urge you, friend: Don't wait. Don't harden your heart. If you feel that pull in your soul — that's Him. He's speaking to you. He's saying, "Come home."

If you're ready to say yes to Jesus, then I invite you to pray the following prayer—not as empty words, but from a sincere heart.

Here is a prayer to help you begin your new life with God:

Dear God,

I regret and repent from my sins. Please forgive me for all the sins I have committed.

I believe that Your son Jesus Christ was crucified and died for my sins.

I declare with my mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in my heart, that God raised Jesus from the dead.

I ask Jesus to be my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

If you sincerely and wholeheartedly prayed this prayer, then according to your faith and what the Bible teaches, you are saved. If you did not pray this prayer aloud, find someone to tell that you believe in Jesus Christ and that Jesus is Lord. This confession is very important.

It is important not to rely solely on what others say. That is why this book has a focus on learning about God's plan of salvation and gaining assurance of salvation from the Word of God, the Bible.

In order for you to gain a more detailed understanding of salvation and its importance, read the rest of this book.

The first part of the book provides explanations of the words and concepts used in the Bible related to salvation and the second part gives you advice regarding your first steps living as a Christian.

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Cover design by Yoshika Williams-Garner.

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Images inside the book designed by Martin Reinert / Edutainfo.

Website: www.edutainfo.com

ISBN: 978-8-79-761953-7

Version 1.0. First published in 2025.

May God bless you and the Holy Spirit guide you as you read this book, in the mighty name of Jesus Christ.

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Dedication

I dedicate this book to the memory of my parents, Agnar and Bina Reinert, who always emphasised that trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour was the most important thing we could do, and then to live in obedience to God's Word as His disciples.

The Purpose of This Book

The aim of “How To Get Saved” is to provide you with a clear understanding of salvation as taught in God’s Word, that you may receive salvation and let it transform your life.

Salvation is accessible to everyone. If you are eager to be saved immediately, please read “How To Get Saved Right Away” on page iv of this book.

I have always believed in the importance of understanding God’s Word deeply and prefer to let the Scriptures explain themselves, rather than merely following others’ instructions. In the section “How To Get Saved,” we will explore the Biblical concepts of salvation in greater depth.

This will enhance your understanding of why salvation is necessary, how you may grasp it, and the comprehensive work of salvation that God has prepared for you. Having a solid assurance of your salvation is crucial for your Christian journey.

However, “old” Christians may also benefit from reading the book, as it strengthens our faith to learn about God’s love and His grace and efforts to save us.

You will discover that there are overlapping’s or repetitions in explanations and Bible references for the various concepts. There are two reasons for this. First: you can take one concept, read it by itself, and still have a in depth understanding of that concept as understood in the Bible. Second: Repeating God’s word will help you memorise it and make it part of your tool-case as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The last part of this book aims to provide you with fundamental guidance on living your life for Jesus Christ as His disciple, servant, and ambassador.

I pray that this book helps you to receive salvation and develop a close and growing relationship with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Help in Reading This Book

You can read this book from start to finish, but feel free to jump to any part that interests you. However, I recommend starting with the prayer on “How To Get Saved Right Now” on page iv and then reading the chapters with concepts relating to salvation and finally the chapters regarding the first steps of a Christian.

If you are not familiar with the Bible, it contains two main parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament, each containing multiple books. Most books in the Bible divided into chapters and verses. In this book, Bible references are in this format: John 3:16, which means the book of John, chapter 3, verse 16. All quoted verses are from the New King James Version.

After you have been saved, please continue and read the guide about your first steps as a believer and follower of Jesus Christ. This guide offers practical advice for people new to the Christian faith who are seeking direction for the journey walking as His disciple on the narrow path.

May God bless you as you read this book, guiding you towards salvation and inspiring you to live for Jesus Christ every moment of every day.

SECTION 1:

How to Get Saved

Explanations of Concepts and keywords

There is so much spiritual wealth and depth in God's plan for our salvation, that it will help us understand God and us, as well as our relationship with Him much better, if we study key concepts and words relating to salvation as seen in the word of God, the Bible.

To get a clear understanding of salvation, we will study Bible verses and passages that clarify or make the important words and ideas behind it understandable. After reading all of the Biblical concepts mentioned below, we will do a recap and repeat our prayer for salvation.

Some of these concepts are closely related and partly overlap each other. That is inevitable. It is important to clarify the distinct aspects of each, to grasp each concept completely and salvation as a whole.

First, here is a quick overview of the concepts we will be covering:

1. God's fellowship with man
2. What is sin?
3. Our position before God without salvation
4. What is righteousness?
5. Why we can't work or pay for our salvation
6. What is atonement?
7. Why did Jesus have to die?
8. The blood of Jesus Christ
9. What is substitution?
10. What is redemption?

11. What is propitiation?
12. What is reconciliation?
13. Understanding being “Born Again”
14. What is repentance?
15. Understanding faith, belief and trust
16. Confessing Jesus Christ is Lord
17. What is forgiveness?
18. The resurrection of Jesus
19. Grace and mercy
20. How to be sure of salvation
21. The role of the Holy Spirit

The chapters follow a natural order according to a process from God’s original relationship with humanity, through the understanding of sin, the need for salvation, Christ’s work, our response, and the resulting assurance and ongoing role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Chapter 1:

God's Fellowship with Man

From the very beginning, God's desire for fellowship with humanity has been clear. In the Garden of Eden, God's relationship with Adam and Eve reveals this closeness. Genesis 2 and 3 show us a beautiful picture of God's companionship with His creation.

God's Original Fellowship with Humanity

Genesis 2:8 says, "The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed." God did not just place Adam anywhere; He created a special place for him to live, flourish, and thrive. Later, in Genesis 2:15, it says, "Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to cultivate and keep it." God gave Adam purpose and responsibility, involving him in the care and stewardship of the garden. Genesis 2:19-20 shows God partnering with Adam as He brings the animals to Adam for naming—again, a sign of collaboration between Creator and creation.

Afterward, God creates Eve, showing His care in providing Adam with companionship. Genesis 2:22-23 describes this: "Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman because she was taken out of Man.'" This highlights the unity and harmony intended in human relationships, a reflection of the partnership and intimacy God desires between Himself and humanity.

This closeness with God becomes even more vivid in Genesis 3:8-10, where we read about God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, calling out to Adam. Adam and Eve, now hiding after their sin, heard the Lord God walking and tried to avoid Him. “Where are you?” God asked. Adam responded, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” Even after their disobedience, God still sought them out, revealing His desire for fellowship despite their failure.

Fellowship Broken but God’s Care Continued

Despite the sin that broke this perfect fellowship, God’s care continued. In Genesis 3:21, we see His compassion when “the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.” Though Adam and Eve had disobeyed, God did not abandon them. He still provided for their needs, demonstrating His love even in the face of their rebellion.

God had warned them of the consequences of disobedience. In Genesis 2:16-17, He told Adam, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Their decision to eat from this tree brought spiritual death, a separation from God. Genesis 3:23 records the outcome: “Therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.” This exile from Eden signified the broken fellowship between God and humanity caused by sin.

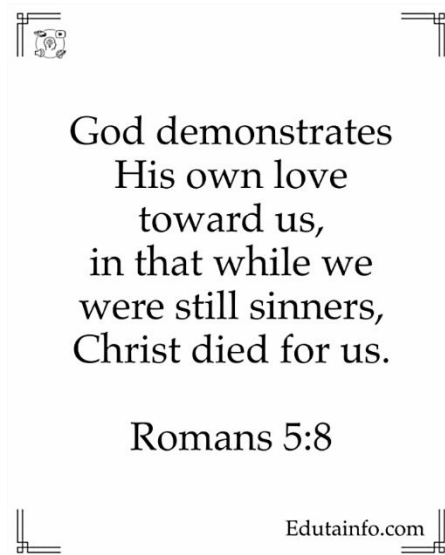
God’s Continued Desire for Relationship

Yet, even after the fall, God’s desire for fellowship never wavered. Throughout the Old Testament, He continually reached out to His people, making covenants with Noah, Abraham, and Moses. He promised to be their God and to dwell among them. In the Tabernacle and later in the Temple,

God's presence remained with His people, showing His ongoing commitment to the relationship He began in Eden.

Restoration Through Jesus Christ

The ultimate expression of God's desire for fellowship came through Jesus Christ. John 1:14 tells us, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." Jesus, God incarnate, lived among humanity, showing God's love in the most personal way possible.



Through His death and resurrection, Jesus made it possible for humanity to be reconciled to God, restoring the fellowship lost in Eden.

In the New Testament, the idea of fellowship is deepened through the Greek word ***koinonia***, meaning communion or partnership. This highlights the deep spiritual connection between believers and God. As 1 John 1:3 states, "that which we have seen and heard we declare to you,

that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.”

Fellowship Today Through the Holy Spirit

Today, we can experience this fellowship through the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:14-16 offers this assurance: “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” The Spirit allows us to call God “Father,” confirming our relationship as His children and enabling ongoing fellowship with Him.

Perfect Fellowship in Eternity

Ultimately, the fellowship we experience now is a glimpse of what is to come. Revelation 21:3 gives us a vision of this eternal reality: “And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.’” In heaven, we will enjoy perfect, unbroken fellowship with God forever.

From Genesis to Revelation, the theme of God’s unwavering desire for a relationship with humanity is evident. Despite the barrier of sin, God’s commitment to restoring this fellowship shines through. This divine relationship is not just a historical fact but also a present reality, inviting us all into a deep, loving, and eternal fellowship with our Creator.

God’s fellowship with us was disrupted by sin, but His pursuit of us did not end there. Next, we will explore what the Bible teaches about sin, helping us understand its seriousness and why restoring our relationship with God is so important.

Chapter 2: What is Sin?

Sin is central to understanding the human condition and why we need salvation. The Bible paints a vivid picture of sin as anything that falls short of God's perfect standards. It is not just about doing wrong; it's about missing God's mark for our lives. 1 John 3:4 defines sin as lawlessness: "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness." Beyond breaking laws, it is a rebellion against God, as we see in Deuteronomy 9:7: "Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the wilderness... you have been rebellious against the Lord." At the core of sin is failing to live up to God's righteousness, as Romans 3:23 reminds us: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

The Definition and Nature of Sin

Sin is fundamentally disobedience. It is when we go against God's commands or violate His will. The Bible describes it as lawlessness, and it reflects our rebellion and rejection of God's authority. Sin is deeper than actions; it includes thoughts, intentions, and desires that go against God's character.

Jesus expanded this understanding in Matthew 5:28, saying, "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." This shows that sin is not just external; it's a matter of the heart. We might deceive ourselves into thinking we are

“good,” but 1. John 1:8 warns us: “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

The Origin of Sin

Sin entered the human story through Adam and Eve’s disobedience in the Garden of Eden. God gave them clear instructions in Genesis 2:16-17: “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Despite this, they listened to the serpent’s lies, which cast doubt on God’s command. Genesis 3:4-5 recounts the serpent’s deceit: “Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’”

Eve, and later Adam, succumbed to this temptation, as we see in Genesis 3:6: “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.” This was the first human act of rebellion against God’s direct command. Their eyes were opened to their nakedness, and they felt shame (Genesis 3:7), revealing the immediate spiritual and emotional effects of their sin.



For there is not
a just man on earth
who does good
and does not sin.

Ecclesiastes 7:20



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When God confronted them, Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent (Genesis 3:12-13). This avoidance of responsibility shows how sin distorts relationships, leading to blame and division. The consequences were severe: curses fell on the serpent, on Adam, and on Eve. Genesis 3:16-19 outlines these curses, which include pain in childbirth for Eve and hard labour for Adam. Most significantly, sin led to their spiritual separation from God, as they were cast out of Eden (Genesis 3:23-24).

The Consequences of Sin

Sin's consequences are profound and affect every part of life. First and foremost, sin separates us from God. Isaiah 59:2 makes this clear: "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear." This separation is spiritual, creating a chasm between us and God that we cannot bridge on our own.

Sin also leads to death. Romans 6:23 declares, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." This death is not just physical; it is spiritual, resulting in eternal separation from God. Furthermore, sin distorts our relationships with others, introducing selfishness, pride, and conflict. James 4:1-2 explains how sinful desires lead to conflict: "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?"

Jesus described sin as a form of slavery. In John 8:34, He says, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin." This bondage prevents us from living the life God intends for us. Instead, we are caught in cycles of sin that we cannot break free from on our own.

The Universal Condition of Sin

No one is exempt from sin. Ecclesiastes 7:20 says, “For there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin.” Similarly, Romans 3:10 says, “There is none righteous, no, not one.” This universal truth reminds us that sin affects everyone. No matter how moral or righteous we may think we are, sin is present in every human heart.

The Need for Repentance and Forgiveness

Because sin affects everyone, repentance and forgiveness are essential. Proverbs 28:13 urges us to confess our sins: “He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.” In His grace, God offers us forgiveness through Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:9 promises: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

God’s Plan for Redemption

Despite the seriousness of sin, God made a plan to restore us. Romans 5:8 reveals God’s love in action: “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Through Jesus’ sacrifice, we are offered forgiveness and new life. He took upon Himself the penalty of our sins, making a way for us to be reconciled to God.

Living in the Light of God’s Forgiveness

When we understand the weight of sin and its consequences, it helps us grasp the enormity of God’s grace. Jesus’ sacrifice calls us to live in repentance, continually turning away from sin and toward God. Through

confession and faith in Jesus, we can experience forgiveness and restoration, living in fellowship with our Creator.

Sin may separate us from God, but God's love is stronger than sin's grip. Through repentance and faith in Jesus, we are brought back into His loving arms, redeemed and renewed. Understanding sin reminds us of our need for salvation and the amazing gift of grace that is available to all who believe.

Chapter 3:

Our Position Before God Without Salvation

Righteousness, as defined by Scripture, refers to living in alignment with God's will and moral standards. It encompasses moral uprightness, virtue, and obedience to God's commands. However, the Bible clearly illustrates that, without salvation, humanity's position before God is one of sin and separation. This disconnection originates from what is known as original sin—our inherited sinful nature due to Adam and Eve's disobedience in the Garden of Eden. That act of rebellion created a barrier between God and humanity, leading to a state of spiritual death and eternal separation from God's presence. Without salvation through Jesus Christ, humanity remains condemned to suffer the consequences of sin and estrangement from God.

The Spiritual Death Caused by Sin

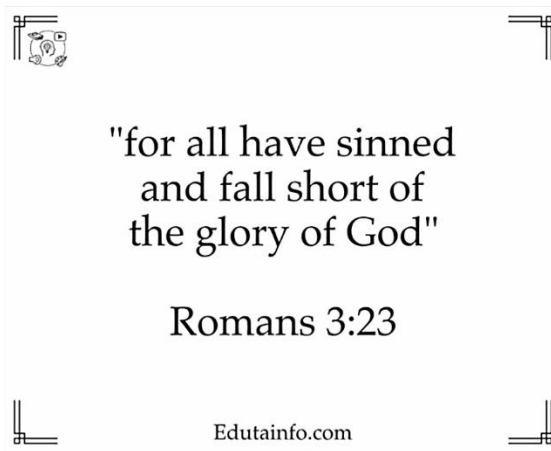
The Bible paints a vivid picture of this human condition apart from God's saving grace. In Ephesians 2:1-3, Paul describes it:

“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”

This passage underscores the universal nature of sin and its pervasive impact on every individual. Spiritual death refers to a complete inability to know or please God. Sin creates a chasm we cannot cross by our own efforts or merit.

All Have Sinned and Face Eternal Separation

Romans continues to describe this dire situation. Romans 3:23 bluntly states, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” No one is exempt from sin’s effects. Further, Romans 6:23 declares, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” This highlights the ultimate consequence of sin—eternal death—while contrasting it with the hope of salvation through Jesus. Without salvation, our position before God is one of condemnation and separation, facing the penalty of sin.



God, in His holiness, cannot tolerate sin. Habakkuk 1:13 says, “You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness.” Before a holy God, our sin makes us guilty and deserving of His wrath. Romans 2:5 warns, “But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent

heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.” Even our best attempts at righteousness are insufficient. Isaiah 64:6 highlights this reality: “But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags.” We cannot rely on our own works to reconcile us to God; they are tainted by sin.

The Reality of Our Alienation from God

Without salvation, this separation from God also extends to His blessings and promises. Ephesians 2:12 describes the alienation:

“that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”

We are not part of God’s family and cannot partake in the privileges and promises reserved for His children. Created in God’s image, we are intended to reflect His character and fulfil His purposes, but sin distorts this image and keeps us from fulfilling our true calling.

Our Helpless Condition Without God’s Intervention

The apostle Paul continues in Romans 3:10-12 to further illustrate humanity’s helpless condition without God’s intervention:

“There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”

This highlights how humanity’s fallen state renders us incapable of seeking or doing good apart from God’s grace. We are trapped in a cycle of sin, unable to bridge the gap to God on our own.

Hope Through God's Plan of Salvation

Thankfully, the Bible does not leave us in despair but emphasizes the need for salvation as the only way to reconcile with God and restore our relationship. John 3:16 is one of the most well-known verses that encapsulates God's redemptive plan:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Through faith in Jesus Christ, we can overcome this separation, receiving eternal life and being restored to fellowship with God. Our position without salvation underscores the necessity of God's intervention and the urgent need for His grace.

Understanding our helplessness in our sinful state brings clarity to the importance of righteousness. God's standard of righteousness contrasts sharply with our sinful nature, and it is only through Christ that we can attain the righteousness we were created to reflect.

Chapter 4:

What Is Righteousness?

Righteousness, at its core, is living in harmony with God’s will and moral principles. It means being upright, virtuous, and adhering to God’s commands. The Bible often connects righteousness with being blameless and just from God’s perspective. For instance, Psalm 89:14 declares, “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.” This verse highlights how righteousness is intertwined with justice, underscoring the importance of living a life that aligns with God’s standards.

A key point about righteousness is that it cannot be achieved through our own efforts. Instead, it is a gift from God, granted through faith in Jesus Christ. Galatians 2:16 makes this clear: “knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.” This shows that our righteousness, and the justification that comes with it, relies entirely on faith in Christ, not on following the law or human effort.

The Biblical Foundation of Righteousness

In biblical terms, righteousness is being morally right or justifiable before God. It means living in a way that is consistent with His standards and character. Deuteronomy 32:4 states, “He is the Rock, His work is perfect;

For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.” Since God is righteous, He expects righteousness from us. Yet, because of our sinful nature, we fall short of His perfect standard.

The Bible teaches that no one can achieve righteousness on their own. Isaiah 64:6 says, “But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags;” Our best efforts are inadequate because they are tainted by sin. Romans 3:10-12 reinforces this idea: “There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”

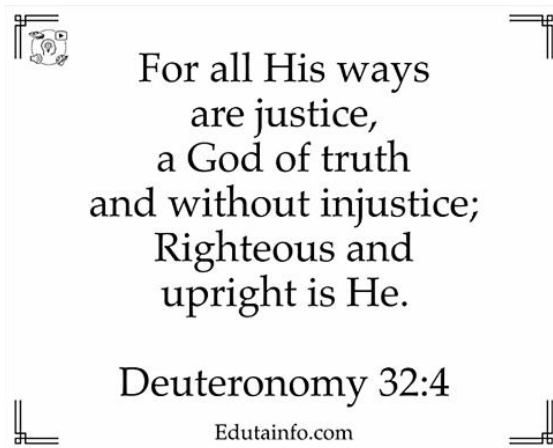
The Gift of Righteousness Through Faith

The good news is that God has provided a way for us to attain righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ. Romans 3:21-22 explains, “But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;” When we place our trust in Jesus, His righteousness is credited to us. This concept is known as imputation. 2 Corinthians 5:21 beautifully summarizes this: “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

This imputed righteousness means that God sees us as righteous because of what Jesus has done. We are justified — declared righteous — by faith, not by our own works. Ephesians 2:8-9 highlights this: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” This underscores the essential role of God’s grace in both salvation and righteousness.

Living Out Righteousness Daily

Righteousness also means living a transformed life. While our positional righteousness before God is based on faith, practical righteousness involves how we live out our faith daily. Philippians 2:12-13 encourages us: “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” Through the Holy Spirit, God empowers us to live righteously, grow in holiness, and reflect His character.



Living righteously is not just about following rules. It is about having a genuine faith and striving to reflect God’s character in our daily lives. This includes embodying virtues like love, kindness, humility, and integrity. It involves ongoing spiritual growth and transformation, aligning our thoughts, actions, and attitudes with God’s will.

The Role of Jesus in Righteousness

Jesus Christ provides the perfect model of righteousness. He lived a sinless life, fully obedient to God’s will, showing what true righteousness looks like. His sacrificial death and resurrection made it possible for us to

receive God's righteousness through faith. Romans 5:8 illustrates this: "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." This highlights the depth of God's love and His provision for our redemption.

Through faith in Jesus, we receive the gift of righteousness from God and are empowered to live a life pleasing to Him. This understanding of righteousness is central to the Christian faith and shapes how we live according to God's Word. The Holy Spirit guides us, helping us grow in righteousness and produce fruit that reflects our transformed nature.

Righteousness in Community

Righteousness extends beyond individual lives to our communities. Christians are called to promote justice, peace, and love within our societies. This involves caring for the marginalized, advocating for fairness, and showing Christ-like love to others.

The early church exemplifies this communal aspect of righteousness. Acts 2:42-47 describes how the believers lived out their faith together: "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

Righteousness is a broad concept involving alignment with God's will and moral standards. It's a gift from God received through faith in Jesus Christ, not something earned by human effort alone. This gift enables us to live transformed lives reflecting God's character. As we grow in righteousness, we are called to positively impact our communities, embodying justice, love, and peace. Understanding righteousness highlights why our own efforts fall short and underscores the necessity of God's gift of salvation.

Chapter 5:

Why We Can't Work Nor Pay For Our Salvation

The question of attaining salvation is central to Christian faith. The Bible is clear that salvation is a gift from God, not something we can earn through effort or buy with money.

The Nature of Sin and Human Limitations

To understand why we cannot work or pay for salvation, we need to consider the nature of sin and its impact on humanity. Sin, according to the Bible, started with the disobedience of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3). This original sin has affected all of humanity, creating a separation between God and mankind.

Romans 3:23 states, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” This verse highlights that everyone has sinned and therefore falls short of God’s perfect standards. Romans 6:23 further explains, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Here, Paul emphasizes that sin’s ultimate consequence is death—both physical and spiritual.

The Inadequacy of Human Efforts

Many people think they can earn salvation through good deeds or living a moral life. However, the Bible teaches that human efforts are inadequate for salvation. Isaiah 64:6 provides a vivid illustration: “But we are

all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.” This verse shows that even our best efforts are tainted by sin and fall short before a holy God.

Paul also addresses this in Ephesians 2:8-9: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” Salvation is entirely a result of God’s grace, not something we can achieve through our actions. This grace is received through faith in Jesus Christ, not by human effort.

The Concept of Grace and Faith

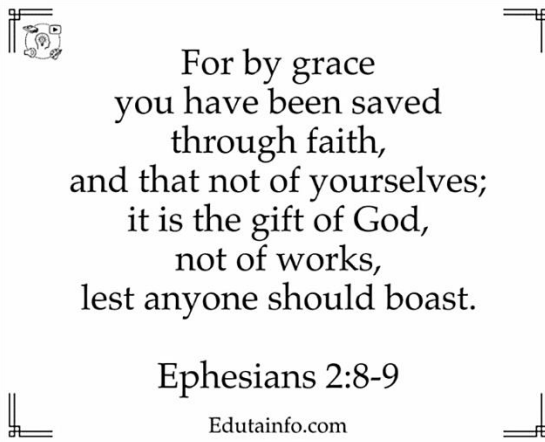
The New Testament frequently emphasizes that salvation is a gift from God, given by His grace and received through faith. Grace is God’s unmerited favor—a gift we don’t deserve and can’t earn. Ephesians 2:8-9 reinforces this: salvation is “the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Faith is the means by which we accept this gift. John 3:16 famously says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” Faith in Jesus Christ is the key to receiving salvation. It’s not about what we do but about whom we trust.

The Role of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ plays a central role in the understanding of salvation. According to the Bible, Jesus, the Son of God, lived a sinless life and sacrificed Himself on the cross to atone for humanity’s sins. This sacrificial act is the foundation of Christian salvation. 2 Corinthians 5:21 explains, “For He

made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” This verse highlights the concept of imputation: our sins are transferred to Christ, and His righteousness is transferred to us. This exchange allows us to stand righteous before God, not because of our own deeds but because of what Christ has done.



The Inadequacy of Material Wealth

Some believe that material wealth or offerings can secure salvation. The Bible rejects this notion. In Acts 8:18-20, Simon the Sorcerer tries to buy the power of the Holy Spirit with money. Peter rebukes him, saying, “Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God.” This incident shows that salvation and spiritual gifts cannot be bought. They are given freely by God’s grace to those who believe in Jesus Christ.

Justification by Faith Alone

A fundamental principle of the Bible is justification by faith alone (*sola fide*). This teaching asserts that we are declared righteous before God based solely on our faith in Jesus Christ, not by any works we might perform. Romans 5:1 states, “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” This verse captures that justification, or being declared righteous before God, comes through faith in Christ, bringing us peace and reconciliation with God.

The Transformative Power of Grace

While works do not earn salvation, they are a natural outcome of genuine faith. James 2:17 states, “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” True faith will produce good works, not as a means to earn salvation, but as a fruit of the transformative power of God’s grace in our lives.

Ephesians 2:10 complements this: “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Paul clarifies that while good works do not save us, we are saved for the purpose of doing good works. These works demonstrate our faith and respond to the grace we have received.

The Bible clearly teaches that we cannot work or pay for our salvation. Our efforts, no matter how sincere, are insufficient because of our inherent sinfulness. Salvation is a gift of God’s grace, received through faith in Jesus Christ. This faith is more than intellectual assent; it is a deep trust in Christ’s sacrificial death and resurrection. Through this faith, we are justified and reconciled to God, and our lives are transformed to reflect His love and righteousness.

Understanding this perspective helps us rely fully on God's grace, guiding us to live lives that please Him—not out of obligation or a desire to earn salvation, but out of gratitude for the incredible gift of eternal life. Recognizing that salvation cannot be earned leads us to explore atonement, which addresses how God bridges the gap created by sin.

Chapter 6:

What Is Atonement?

Atonement is a crucial concept in Christian theology, referring to the reconciliation between God and humanity achieved through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. In simple terms, atonement involves making amends for a wrong or injury to restore a broken relationship. Imagine you accidentally broke a friend's valuable possession. To make things right, you would apologize and offer to repair or replace the item. This act of restitution helps mend your friendship. Similarly, atonement in the Bible is about restoring the broken relationship between God and humans caused by sin.

The Need for Atonement

Sin creates a separation between humanity and God. This separation is described in Isaiah 59:2: "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear." This alienation from God leads to spiritual death. Romans 6:23 states, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." The Bible teaches that "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Because God is holy and just, sin cannot be overlooked without a penalty being paid.

Old Testament Foundations

In the Old Testament, atonement was achieved through animal sacrifices. These sacrifices symbolized the covering or "atoning" for sin but were

temporary measures pointing towards a more perfect solution. Leviticus 17:11 explains, “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.” The Day of Atonement, described in Leviticus 16, was an annual event where the high priest offered sacrifices for the people’s sins. However, these rituals were limited. Hebrews 10:1-4 highlights their insufficiency: “For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, ... For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.”

Fulfilment in Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ fulfils the foreshadowing of the Old Testament sacrifices. He is the ultimate, perfect sacrifice for sin. Hebrews 9:12-14 declares, “Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption ... how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” Jesus’ death on the cross paid the penalty for our sins, making reconciliation with God possible. This sacrifice restores our relationship with God, offering forgiveness and eternal life.

Accomplishments of the Atonement

The atonement through Jesus achieves several crucial outcomes:

1. Satisfaction of God’s Justice:

Sin demands a penalty, and Jesus bore this penalty on the cross. Romans 3:25-26 states, “... Jesus, whom God set forth as a pro-

pitation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

2. Demonstration of God’s Love:

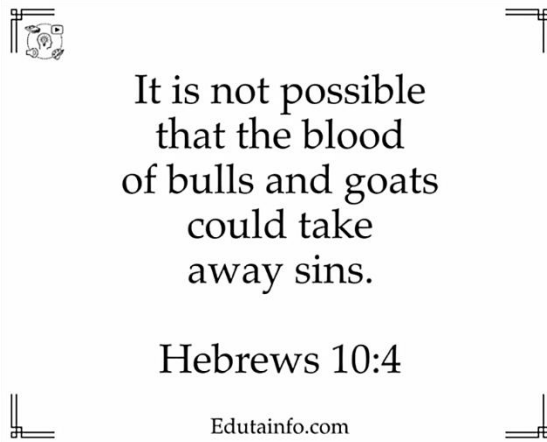
The atonement reveals God’s profound love for humanity. John 3:16 famously declares, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” Jesus’ sacrificial death is the ultimate expression of divine love and grace.

3. Reconciliation with God:

The atonement restores the broken relationship between humanity and God. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 says, “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

4. Provision of Forgiveness and Cleansing:

Through Jesus’ sacrifice, believers are forgiven and purified from all sin. 1 John 1:7 assures, “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” This cleansing makes believers holy and acceptable before God.



Comprehensive Scope of Atonement

Jesus' atonement is comprehensive, covering all sins—past, present, and future. 1 John 2:2 reassures, “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” This sacrifice satisfies divine justice while simultaneously demonstrating God’s righteousness and love.

Understanding atonement is integral to grasping Christian salvation. It encompasses the sacrificial system of the Old Testament and finds its ultimate fulfilment in Jesus Christ’s sacrifice. Through His atoning work, Jesus satisfied God’s justice, demonstrated His love, reconciled humanity to God, and provided complete forgiveness and cleansing from sin. Faith in Jesus grants believers peace with God and the assurance of eternal life, encapsulating the essence of Christian salvation.

Recognising the significance of atonement helps us understand why Jesus’ sacrifice was necessary. His death was the means by which atonement was accomplished, fulfilling the requirement for the forgiveness of sins and the restoration of our relationship with God.

Chapter 7:

Why Did Jesus Have To Die?

The necessity of Jesus' death is central to Christian faith. Understanding why His death was essential involves exploring several key theological concepts: sin, justice, love, and redemption.

The Seriousness of Sin

Jesus' death was necessary because of the gravity of sin. Sin is a violation of God's law and an affront to His holy nature. Romans 6:23 tells us, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Sin results in both spiritual and physical death. To address this consequence, a perfect sacrifice was needed.

God's Justice

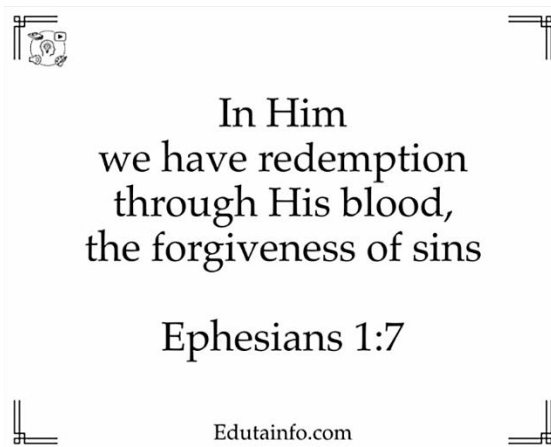
God's justice demanded a payment for sin. God is both just and righteous, and He cannot overlook sin. Habakkuk 1:13 declares, "You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness." For God to maintain His justice, sin must be punished. The Old Testament sacrificial system, involving animal sacrifices, pointed to the need for a perfect and ultimate sacrifice. Yet, these sacrifices were temporary and insufficient. Hebrews 10:4 explains, "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins."

Jesus' death on the cross fulfilled God's justice. He was the perfect, sinless sacrifice, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. John

1:29 states, “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’” By dying in our place, Jesus bore the punishment we deserved. Isaiah 53:5 prophesied, “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”

Demonstration Of God’s Love

Jesus’ death was also the ultimate demonstration of God’s love. God’s love compelled Him to provide a way for us to be saved, even at the cost of His own Son’s life. Romans 5:8 reiterates, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”



Redemption

Jesus’ death was necessary for our redemption. Redemption means being bought back or delivered from bondage. Our sin placed us in bondage to sin and death, but Jesus’ death paid the price for our freedom. Ephesians

1:7 states, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

Reconciliation with God

Finally, Jesus’ death reconciled us to God. Sin had created a barrier between us and God, but through Jesus, that barrier is removed. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 says, “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.” Jesus’ death restored the broken relationship, allowing us to be in fellowship with God.

The Significance of His Sacrifice

Understanding why Jesus had to die leads us to appreciate the significance of His blood. His sacrificial blood seals the atonement, offering us cleansing and redemption through His ultimate sacrifice. His death was not just a historical event but the divine solution to humanity’s deepest problem: separation from God due to sin.

Chapter 8:

The Blood of Jesus Christ

The blood of Jesus Christ holds deep meaning in the story of salvation. It is not just symbolic; it forms the foundation for how we understand redemption and our relationship with God. Let us explore what the Bible says about the blood of Jesus and how it affects us spiritually.

The Significance of Blood in the Old Testament

In the Old Testament, blood is often associated with life and atonement. Leviticus 17:11 explains it clearly: “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.” Blood was not just a physical necessity; it was a spiritual key. It symbolized life and the means by which people could be cleansed and reconciled to God.

The sacrificial system required the shedding of blood from animals to atone for sins. But these sacrifices were always meant to point toward something greater. Hebrews 9:22 reminds us, “And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.” This Old Testament system foreshadowed the ultimate sacrifice that would come through Jesus.

Jesus, the Ultimate Sacrifice

The sacrifices of the Old Testament, while important, were never perfect. They had to be repeated over and over again. But when John the Baptist saw Jesus, he recognized the finality of Jesus' purpose, declaring, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). Jesus was not just another lamb for sacrifice. He was the perfect, sinless, and fully sufficient offering for all of humanity's sin.

Hebrews 10:10 tells us that through Jesus' sacrifice, we have been made holy "through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Unlike the animal sacrifices, which were temporary, Jesus' death on the cross was the final and complete sacrifice. His blood did what no animal blood could ever fully accomplish.

Atonement Through Jesus' Blood

The term "atonement" means to make amends or repair a wrong. In the case of Jesus, His blood accomplished a complete reconciliation between God and humanity. Romans 3:24-25 explains, "being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith." Jesus' death was not just an act of love, but also an act of justice, satisfying the penalty for sin and removing it once and for all.

This is much more profound than the Old Testament covering of sins. Psalm 103:12 expresses the magnitude of God's grace, saying, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." Through Jesus' blood, our sins are not just forgiven — they are completely erased.

The Blood of Jesus and Redemption

The word “redemption” means to buy back or liberate. Ephesians 1:7 explains, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” Jesus’ blood was the price that needed to be paid to free us from sin’s bondage.

A powerful illustration of this is the Passover in Exodus 12. The Israelites were instructed to place lamb’s blood on their doorposts so that they would be spared from God’s judgment on Egypt. In the same way, Jesus’ blood, when applied to our lives through faith, spares us from God’s judgment and sets us free from slavery to sin.

Justification through His Blood

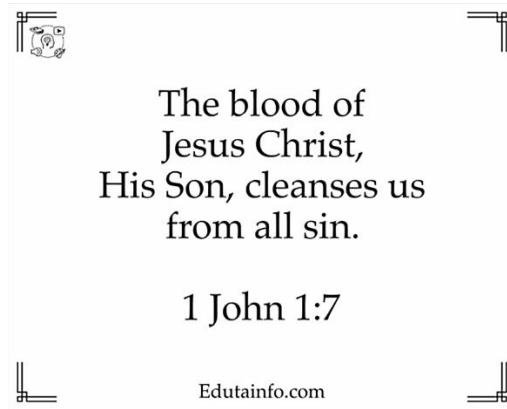
Being justified means being declared righteous before God. Romans 5:9 explains it simply: “having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”

Jesus’ sacrifice does not just pardon us from sin; it changes our legal standing before God. His blood makes it so that when God looks at us, He does not see our sin — He sees the righteousness of Christ. This shift opens the door to a new kind of relationship with God, one built on confidence and peace rather than guilt and fear.

Sanctification through His Blood

Sanctification is the ongoing process of being made holy and set apart for God’s work. The blood of Jesus does not just save us; it also cleanses us continually. Hebrews 13:12 explains, “Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.”

As believers, we experience this cleansing daily. 1 John 1:7 assures us, “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” This purification allows us to grow in our faith and live out the identity God has given us through Christ.



Reconciliation through His Blood

Before Jesus' sacrifice, sin separated humanity from God. But through Jesus' blood, that relationship is restored. Colossians 1:19-20 teaches, “For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself... having made peace through the blood of His cross.”

Through the blood of Jesus, we are no longer at odds with God. Instead, we are welcomed as His children, experiencing a restored relationship that brings peace and fellowship with our Creator.

Victory through His Blood

The blood of Jesus also represents victory in the spiritual realm. Revelation 12:11 proclaims, “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb

and by the word of their testimony.” Jesus’ blood is a powerful weapon in the battle against Satan. It is a constant reminder that the enemy has been defeated.

By His blood, we stand secure, knowing that Christ has already won the ultimate victory over sin, death, and all powers of darkness.

The New Covenant in His Blood

Jesus’ blood ushered in a New Covenant between God and humanity. At the Last Supper, Jesus took the cup and said, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you” (Luke 22:20). Unlike the Old Covenant, which was based on following the law, this new relationship is grounded in grace. It offers forgiveness and eternal life to all who believe in Him.

Hebrews 9:15 emphasizes that this New Covenant assures us of our eternal inheritance through Jesus’ death and the redemption He provides. This covenant seals our relationship with God and guarantees the fulfillment of His promises to us.

Communion and the Blood of Jesus

In Communion, or the Lord’s Supper, we remember and celebrate Jesus’ sacrifice. 1 Corinthians 11:25-26 recounts Jesus’ words: “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” Each time we participate in Communion, we are reminded of the price Jesus paid for our redemption, and we proclaim the significance of His blood.

By regularly taking part in this practice, we reflect on His sacrifice, renew our devotion, and declare the power of His blood to the world.

The blood of Jesus Christ is at the very heart of the Christian faith. It is through His blood that we are atoned for, redeemed, justified, sanctified, reconciled to God, and given victory over sin. Jesus' blood also establishes the New Covenant, giving us a secure relationship with God that will last forever.

As we reflect on the power of Jesus' blood, we gain a deeper understanding of God's love and His incredible plan for our salvation. This knowledge should stir us to live lives of gratitude, obedience, and faith, continually depending on the blood that set us free.

Recognizing the power of Jesus' blood helps us grasp the concept of substitution—how Jesus took our place and bore the penalty for our sins. This exchange is central to understanding how His sacrifice benefits us personally.

Chapter 9:

What is Substitution?

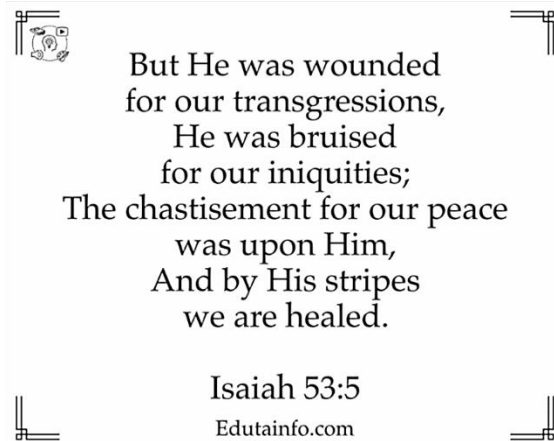
Substitution is a crucial idea when we talk about Jesus' death on the cross. It means that Jesus took our place, facing the consequences of our sins, so that we could be forgiven and restored to a right relationship with God.

This idea of substitution actually starts in the Old Testament. In the sacrificial system, animals were offered up as substitutes for the people's sins. One key example of this is in Leviticus 16:20-22, where we read about the Day of Atonement. On this day, the high priest would place his hands on a goat, symbolically transferring the people's sins to the animal, which was then sent away into the wilderness. This was a powerful image of sin being carried away, but it was only a temporary solution, a shadow of the perfect sacrifice to come — Jesus Christ.

Jesus: The Perfect Substitute

Jesus took on this role of substitute in a way that no animal sacrifice could ever do. Isaiah 53:4-5 paints a picture of Jesus' substitutionary work: "Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed." Jesus did not suffer for anything He had done wrong. Instead, He took the punishment that we deserved.

In the New Testament, this theme of substitution continues. 2 Corinthians 5:21 explains, “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” Jesus was sinless, but He took on our sins so that we could take on His righteousness. This is the heart of substitution: Jesus trades places with us, bearing the weight of sin so that we might share in His holiness.



What Does Jesus' Substitution Accomplish?

First, Jesus' substitution satisfies God's justice. Sin comes with a cost, and God's justice requires that sin be dealt with. But rather than us paying that price, Jesus took it on Himself. Romans 3:24-26 explains it this way: "...Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus." Jesus' sacrifice shows both God's justice and His mercy. The penalty for sin is paid, but it is paid by Jesus instead of us.

Second, Jesus' death on our behalf is the ultimate expression of God's love. Romans 5:8 captures it perfectly: "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Jesus did not wait for us to clean up our lives or get things right. He died for us when we were still stuck in sin, showing just how deep God's love goes.

Third, because of Jesus' substitution, we can be forgiven and reconciled to God. Colossians 1:21-22 says, "And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight." Through His death, Jesus brings us back into a right relationship with God, making us pure in His eyes.

Our Response to Jesus' Substitution

Jesus' willingness to take our place calls for a response from us. It is not just about knowing what He did—it's about living in light of that sacrifice. Galatians 2:20 expresses what this response looks like: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Because Jesus died for us, we are invited to live for Him. This means placing our faith in His finished work on the cross and living in a way that reflects our gratitude for what He has done.

Substitution and Redemption

Understanding substitution leads us naturally to the idea of redemption. Redemption is what happens because of Jesus taking our place. Through His sacrifice, we are liberated from the bondage of sin. The price for our

freedom was His life. By stepping into our place and bearing the punishment we deserved, Jesus did not just cancel our sin debt — He bought us back and set us free.

In Jesus' substitution, we find the core of the gospel. He took on our sins, bore our punishment, and gave us His righteousness. Through His sacrifice, God's justice is satisfied, His love is revealed, and our relationship with Him is restored. Substitution is not just a theological concept; it is a profound act of love that calls us to live transformed lives, trusting in Jesus' sacrifice and embracing the freedom and reconciliation, it brings.

Chapter 10: What is Redemption?

Redemption is one of the most powerful and profound themes in the Bible. At its core, redemption means being bought back or set free from the slavery of sin and its consequences, all through Jesus Christ. The term itself comes from the idea of paying a ransom—a price that secures the release of someone in bondage or captivity.

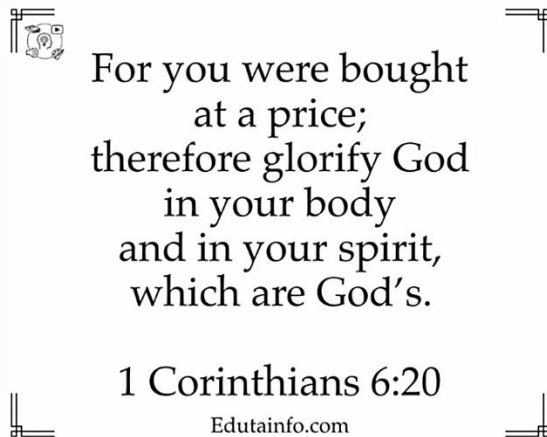
In the Old Testament, we see redemption illustrated in God’s deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt. Exodus 6:6 captures this promise from God: “Therefore say to the children of Israel: ‘I am the Lord; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.’” This event stands as a powerful example of God’s saving power and His desire to free His people.

But in the New Testament, redemption takes on an even deeper meaning. It is not just about physical freedom; it’s about spiritual freedom. Humanity, born into sin, is trapped under its power and in need of redemption. Romans 3:23-24 makes it clear: “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” Jesus’ death on the cross paid the ultimate price for our sins, purchasing our freedom from sin’s grip.

What Does Redemption in Christ Mean?

First and foremost, redemption means the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13-14 explains, “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” Our sins are not simply brushed aside—they are fully forgiven. Through Jesus’ sacrifice, we are cleansed from all our unrighteousness, completely free from the guilt and shame of our past mistakes.

Next, redemption also means freedom from the power of sin. Romans 6:6-7 teaches, “knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.” In other words, through Jesus’ redemption, we are no longer enslaved to sin’s control over us. We have been given the power to live righteously, no longer chained to sinful habits or ways of thinking.



Another beautiful aspect of redemption is that it involves our adoption into God’s family. Galatians 4:4-5 explains, “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under

the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” This means we are not just forgiven and freed; we are also brought into a loving relationship with God as His children. As part of His family, we inherit all the rights and privileges that come with being sons and daughters of God.

Redemption also includes the promise of eternal life. Ephesians 1:13-14 gives us this assurance: “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” Through redemption, we are not only freed from sin in this life but also given the promise of an eternal inheritance with God. We will one day be completely free from sin’s presence and live forever in His glory.

Living in Light of Redemption

Being redeemed also changes the way we live. 1. Corinthians 6:19-20 reminds us, “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” Because Jesus paid the ultimate price to redeem us, we now belong to Him. This means our lives should reflect that reality. Every part of us—our thoughts, actions, and attitudes—should honor God and bring glory to our Redeemer.

Redemption is the story of how Jesus stepped in to pay the price for our sins, freeing us from the power of sin and bringing us into the family of God. Through His redemption, we experience forgiveness, freedom, and

the promise of eternal life. In response, we are called to live lives that reflect the immense love and grace we have received.

The idea of redemption flows into understanding propitiation, which explains how Jesus' sacrifice satisfies God's justice. Through propitiation, we see how redemption is not just about freedom but also about God's wrath being appeased through Christ's atonement.

Chapter 11:

What is Propitiation?

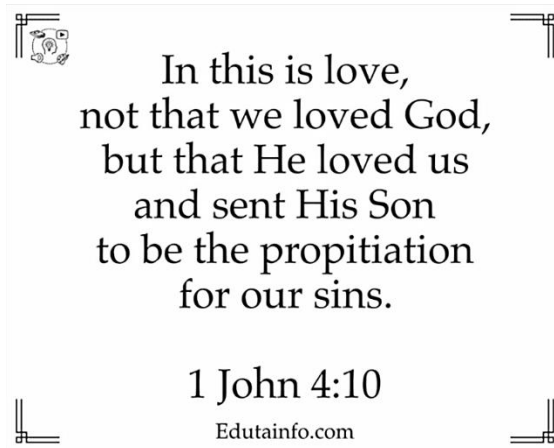
Propitiation helps us understand how Jesus' sacrificial death satisfies God's holy wrath against sin. It refers to the act of turning away God's righteous anger through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, making reconciliation between God and humanity possible. Through this act, God's justice is satisfied, and His wrath is appeased, allowing sinners to be restored to a right relationship with Him.

The need for propitiation stems from God's holiness and justice. His holiness means that He cannot tolerate sin, and His justice requires that sin be punished. Romans 1:18 explains, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness." Sin incurs God's wrath because it is a violation of His righteous nature, which demands a just response. Without propitiation, humanity would remain under the weight of this wrath.

How Does Propitiation Work?

Propitiation is accomplished through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. His death on the cross satisfies the demands of God's justice and turns away His wrath. Romans 3:24-25 describes it this way: "... Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith." The word "propitiation" here is sometimes translated as "sacrifice of atonement," showing that Jesus' blood was the offering that appeased God's anger against sin.

One of the most beautiful aspects of propitiation is that it was God's initiative. God Himself provided the means to satisfy His justice and express His love. 1 John 4:10 reminds us, "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." This means that God's love and justice work together in the propitiatory work of Christ. Rather than leaving humanity to face His wrath, God sent Jesus to bear it in our place.



The Substitutionary Nature of Propitiation

A second key aspect of propitiation is the idea of substitution. Jesus took our place, absorbing the punishment that we deserved. Isaiah 53:5 paints this picture clearly: "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed." Jesus became the substitute, bearing the wrath of God on our behalf so that we might be spared. His suffering made possible our healing—both spiritual and eternal.

Faith and Propitiation

Propitiation is not something we can earn or achieve on our own. It is something we receive by faith. Hebrews 2:17 explains, “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.” Jesus, as our High Priest, offered Himself as the sacrifice that would turn away God’s wrath, and we must trust in His finished work. This is why faith in Christ is so central to the Christian life — it is the means by which we receive the benefits of His propitiation.

Reconciliation through Propitiation

The result of propitiation is our reconciliation with God. The wrath that once stood between us and God is removed, and we are restored to a relationship of peace with Him. Romans 5:9-11 reassures us: “Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” This means that through Jesus’ sacrifice, we move from being enemies of God to being His friends, from alienation to intimacy with Him.

Reconciliation is the natural and beautiful outcome of propitiation. Because God’s wrath is fully satisfied in Christ, we can now enjoy a harmonious relationship with our Creator. Instead of living in fear of judgment, we are welcomed into His presence as beloved children.

Understanding propitiation helps us grasp the seriousness of sin and the depth of God’s love. Through Jesus’ sacrificial death, God’s justice is upheld, and His wrath is turned away, enabling us to be reconciled to Him. This

is not just a theological idea; it's the foundation of our faith and our relationship with God. Jesus' death on the cross shows us both the gravity of sin and the greatness of God's love for us, and it invites us to respond with trust and gratitude for the reconciliation He has made possible.

Chapter 12:

What is Reconciliation?

Reconciliation is the restoration of a broken relationship, particularly the relationship between God and humanity. Due to sin, we are naturally alienated from God, but through Jesus Christ, we are reconciled to Him.

The need for reconciliation stems from the fact that sin has created a barrier between us and God. Colossians 1:21 states, “And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled”. This alienation means that we are spiritually separated from God, unable to enjoy fellowship with Him or experience His blessings fully.

Reconciliation is made possible through Jesus Christ. His death on the cross removed the barrier of sin, allowing us to be brought back into a right relationship with God. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 explains, “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them” Jesus’ sacrifice not only paid the penalty for our sins but also paved the way for our reconciliation with God.

The process of reconciliation involves several key aspects.

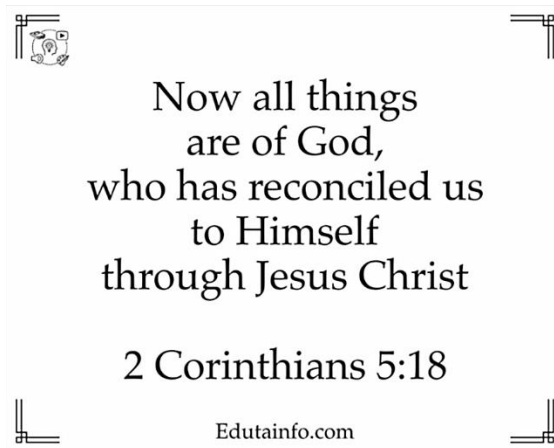
God’s initiative

We cannot reconcile ourselves to God through our efforts; it is God who reaches out to us. Romans 5:10 underscores this: “For if when we were

enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

Reconciliation is received by faith

We must trust in Jesus Christ and His work on the cross to be reconciled to God. Ephesians 2:8-9 emphasizes, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”



Reconciliation leads to peace with God

Once we are reconciled, the hostility and enmity caused by sin are removed, and we experience peace. Romans 5:1 assures us, “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

Reconciliation transforms our relationship with God

We move from being enemies to being children of God, able to enjoy His love, presence, and blessings. Galatians 4:6-7 describes this transformation:

“And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”

Reconciliation with others

Reconciliation compels us to pursue reconciliation with others. As recipients of God’s reconciling grace, we are called to extend forgiveness and seek reconciliation in our human relationships. Matthew 5:23-24 instructs, “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Reconciliation restores our relationship with God, but true transformation comes through being “born again.” This spiritual renewal is essential for entering God’s kingdom and living a life aligned with His will.

Chapter 13:

Understanding Being “Born Again”

The concept of being “born again,” also known as the New Birth is originally from Jesus Christ himself. It signifies a profound spiritual transformation that occurs when an individual accepts Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. This transformative experience is essential for entering the kingdom of God and living a life that reflects His love and grace.

What Does It Mean to Be Born Again?

Being born again is a spiritual rebirth. It is not about a physical birth, but a renewal of the spirit. Jesus explains this concept clearly in John 3:3: Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” This means that a person must experience a spiritual transformation to enter into a relationship with God and be part of His kingdom.

It was when Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a member of the Jewish ruling council, came to Jesus at night to inquire about His teachings, that Jesus elaborated on this concept. In John 3:5-6, Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” Here, Jesus emphasized that the New Birth involves the Holy Spirit’s work in our hearts, making us new creations in Christ.

Why Is the New Birth Important?

The New Birth is crucial because it marks the beginning of our relationship with God. Without this spiritual transformation, we remain separated from God due to sin. Romans 3:23 tells us, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” sin creates a barrier between us and God, but through being born again, that barrier is removed.

When we are born again, we receive forgiveness for our sins and are given a new life in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17 explains, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” This new creation means that our past sins are forgiven, and we are now empowered to live a life that pleases God.

How Does the New Birth Change Our Lives?

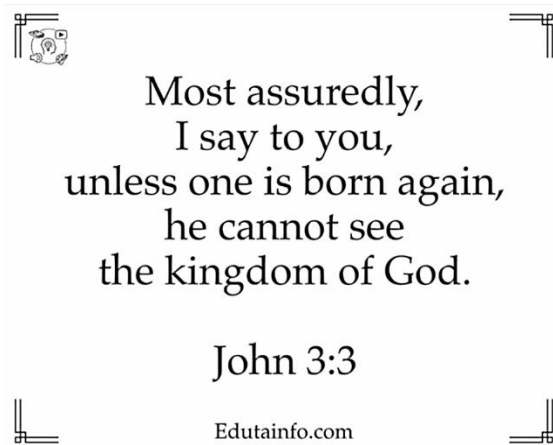
1. **A New Identity:** Being born again gives us a new identity as children of God. John 1:12 says, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” As God’s children, we have a personal relationship with Him and can approach Him with confidence and trust.
2. **A New Heart:** The New Birth changes our hearts. Ezekiel 36:26 prophesied this transformation: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” This means that our desires and priorities are transformed. We begin to love what God loves and seek to live according to His will.
3. **A New Purpose:** With the New Birth comes a new purpose. Ephesians 2:10 declares, “For we are His workmanship, created

in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” We are called to live out our faith through acts of love and service, reflecting God’s love to the world around us.

4. **The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit:** When we are born again, the Holy Spirit comes to live within us. Romans 8:9 says, “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.” The Holy Spirit guides us, teaches us, and empowers us to live the Christian life.

Practical Applications of the New Birth

1. **Daily Prayer and Bible Reading:** To grow in our new life, it is important to stay connected with God through prayer and reading His Word. Prayer allows us to communicate with God, sharing our hearts and listening to His guidance. The Bible is God’s Word, providing wisdom and instruction for our lives. Psalm 119:105 reminds us, “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.” More on this in the next section of this book.
2. **Joining a Church Community:** Being part of a church family is vital for spiritual growth. Hebrews 10:25 encourages us, “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” In a church community, we find support, encouragement, and opportunities to serve others. More on this in the next section of this book.



3. **Living Out Our Faith:** The New Birth calls us to live out our faith in practical ways. This means loving our neighbors, helping those in need, and sharing the good news of Jesus with others. Matthew 5:16 instructs us, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” More on this in the next section of this book.
4. **Listening to the Holy Spirit:** As born-again believers, we should be attentive to the Holy Spirit’s guidance in our daily lives. Galatians 5:25 advises, “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” The Holy Spirit helps us make decisions, convicts us of sin, and empowers us to live victoriously.

Examples from daily life

Consider the example of a caterpillar transforming into a butterfly. The caterpillar goes through a complete change, emerging as a beautiful butterfly. Similarly, when we are born again, our old life is left behind, and we emerge as new creations in Christ. This transformation is both inward and outward, affecting our hearts, minds, and actions.

Another example is that of a seed planted in the ground. Initially, the seed is buried and seemingly lifeless. However, with time, water, and sunlight, it sprouts and grows into a thriving plant. In the same way, the New Birth plants the seed of faith in our hearts, and with the nourishment of God's Word and the Holy Spirit, we grow and bear fruit for God's glory.

The New Birth is a miraculous transformation that brings us into a new relationship with God, gives us a new identity, and sets us on a path of purpose and growth. As we embrace this new life, let us continually seek God through prayer, His Word, and fellowship with other believers, allowing His Spirit to guide us and empower us to live for His glory.

There is more on living as a Christian and practically applying the new life in the next section called: The First Steps of a Christian.

Being born again marks the beginning of a new spiritual life, but the journey does not stop there. A crucial next step is repentance, where we turn from sin and align our hearts and minds with God's will. This transformation is essential to fully embracing the new life we have in Christ.

Chapter 14:

What is Repentance?

Repentance is a central part of the Christian faith, marking a transformative response to the gospel. It is more than feeling bad about sin; it's about making a decisive turn away from sin and toward God. Repentance is not just an emotion but a choice that changes the course of our lives.

The term “repentance” comes from the Greek word **metanoia**, which means “a change of mind.” In a biblical sense, it signifies a deep shift in how we think, act, and relate to God. It is a change that influences every area of life, moving us from rebellion against God to submission to Him. Jesus emphasized the importance of repentance at the very start of His ministry, as seen in Mark 1:15, where He proclaimed, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Repentance can be broken down into a few key elements:

Acknowledgment of Sin

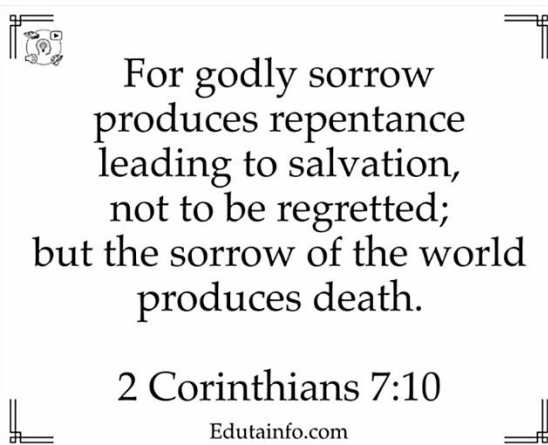
The first step toward repentance is recognizing that we have sinned against God. It is an honest admission that we have fallen short of His standard. King David's heartfelt confession in Psalm 51:3-4 expresses this realization: “For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight.” True repentance begins when we confront the reality of our sin.

Godly Sorrow for Sin

Repentance is not just about regretting the consequences of our actions. It is about experiencing deep sorrow for having offended a holy God. This sorrow is not driven by fear of punishment, but by a genuine sense of how our sin affects our relationship with God. Paul explains in 2. Corinthians 7:10 that “godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.” It is a sorrow that leads to life and transformation, not despair.

Turning Away from Sin

Repentance also involves a deliberate decision to abandon sinful behaviors and thoughts. It is not enough to feel sorry — we must also take action to change. Isaiah 55:7 calls people to make that turn: “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” True repentance shows itself in a changed life, where sin is no longer the path we walk.



Turning Toward God

Repentance is not just about leaving sin behind; it is about returning to God and embracing His ways. It is about seeking His forgiveness and realigning our lives according to His will. Acts 3:19 urges us, “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” Through repentance, we turn back to God and experience the joy and peace of restored fellowship with Him.

Repentance is not a one-time event, but an ongoing part of the Christian life. It begins when we first come to faith, as Peter called the early believers to do in Acts 2:38: “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” But even after we’ve accepted Christ, repentance continues as part of our spiritual growth. We regularly turn from sin and draw closer to God, letting His Spirit shape us into the people He has called us to be.

Repentance is turning away from sin, but in order to truly live out this transformation, then faith, belief, and trust in God are essential. The response opens the door to forgiveness, transformation, and a deeper walk with Him. It is a vital part of the journey of grace, guiding us toward a life lived fully in step with God’s will.

Chapter 15:

Understanding Faith, Belief and Trust

Faith, belief, and trust are foundational to our relationship with God. Understanding these concepts can significantly affect our spiritual journey and deepen our connection with Him.

What is Faith?

Faith describes a profound confidence in God and His promises. Hebrews 11:1 captures this essence: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Faith goes beyond just believing in facts; it is about a deep trust in God’s character and His plans, even when we can not see them.

Faith starts with hearing and understanding God’s Word. Romans 10:17 explains, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” As we engage with the Bible, attend sermons, and participate in studies, our faith is nourished and strengthened. Just as a plant needs water and sunlight to thrive, our faith grows through the regular intake of God’s Word.

Faith in Action

James 2:26 tells us, “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” True faith is not just about believing in God’s existence; it should transform how we live. When we genuinely trust God, our actions reflect that trust. We start making choices based on His guidance, loving others as Jesus instructed, and serving those in need.

Imagine faith as a bridge. On one side are our everyday challenges and struggles, and on the other side are God's promises and presence. Faith is the bridge that allows us to step into God's promises, even when the path seems uncertain or intimidating.

Belief

Belief often overlaps with faith but can also refer to intellectual acceptance of the truth of the Gospel. John 3:16 states, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Here, belief means acknowledging the truth of who Jesus is and what He has done for us.

However, belief alone, without deeper trust and commitment, falls short. James 2:19 notes, "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" This highlights that intellectual belief, without a trusting relationship with God, is incomplete.

Trust

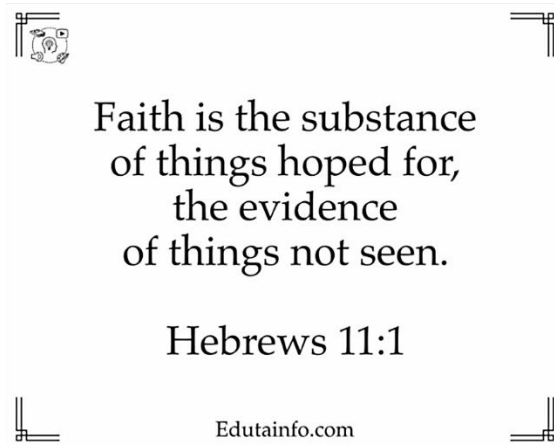
Trust is closely linked to faith but emphasizes a deeper reliance on God. Proverbs 3:5-6 advises, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Trust means committing our ways to God and relying on His wisdom over our own.

Trust is practical and relational. It involves applying our faith in everyday life by making decisions based on our confidence in God's goodness and faithfulness. Psalm 56:3 reflects this trust: "Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You." Trusting God means turning to Him in moments of fear and uncertainty, believing He will guide and care for us.

Interchangeability

While “belief,” “faith,” and “trust” are related, they are not always interchangeable. Belief often serves as the starting point—accepting the truth of God’s Word. Faith encompasses both belief and trust, forming a broader relationship with God. Trust is the application of faith, showing how we rely on God in practical ways.

For example, in John 14:1, Jesus says, “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.” Here, belief is the first step, but living out that belief requires faith and trust, as seen in Hebrews 11 and throughout the Psalms.



The Importance of Faith

Faith is crucial for salvation. Ephesians 2:8-9 explains, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” Salvation is not earned by good deeds but received through faith in Jesus Christ.

Faith also brings peace and assurance. Philippians 4:6-7 encourages, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Faith enables us to trust God with our worries, finding peace in His control.

Growing Your Faith

Strengthening your relationship with God requires effort and intentionality. Here are some practical steps to nurture your faith:

1. **Read the Bible Regularly:** Dedicate time each day to reading and reflecting on God’s Word. The Gospels, especially John’s account, are a good starting point.
2. **Pray Continually:** Maintain an ongoing conversation with God. Share your thoughts, fears, and joys with Him. Prayer deepens your relationship with God.
3. **Join a Church Community:** Engage with other believers for support and encouragement. Hebrews 10:25 reminds us, “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another” Community fosters spiritual growth.
4. **Apply God’s Word:** Live out your faith through actions. Serve others, show kindness, and make choices that reflect your trust in God.
5. **Remember God’s Faithfulness:** Keep track of answered prayers and instances of God’s work in your life. This helps remind you of His faithfulness in tough times.

Faith is more than belief; it is a dynamic trust in God. As you grow in faith, you will find strength and peace, knowing that God is with you every step of the way. Remember Matthew 17:20, “if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” Even a small amount of faith, placed in a great God, can achieve remarkable things.

Faith, belief, and trust work together to form a rich, relational experience with God. As we deepen our faith, we move from mere belief to a vibrant trust that shapes our lives and decisions. Hebrews 11:6 underscores this, “But without faith *it is* impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

Let us strive to cultivate a faith that not only acknowledges God’s existence but wholeheartedly trusts Him in every aspect of our lives.

Faith in Christ forms the foundation of our relationship with God, but confessing Jesus as Lord is the outward expression of that faith. It is through this confession that we declare His authority in our lives and fully embrace the transformation that comes with following Him.

Chapter 16:

Confessing Jesus Christ as Lord

A pivotal moment in every Christian's journey is the confession that Jesus Christ is Lord. This is more than just words — it is a profound recognition of Jesus' authority, divinity, and role as Savior. Confessing Jesus as Lord marks the start of a transformative relationship with God and is deeply rooted in Scripture. We will now explore the significance and implications of this confession.

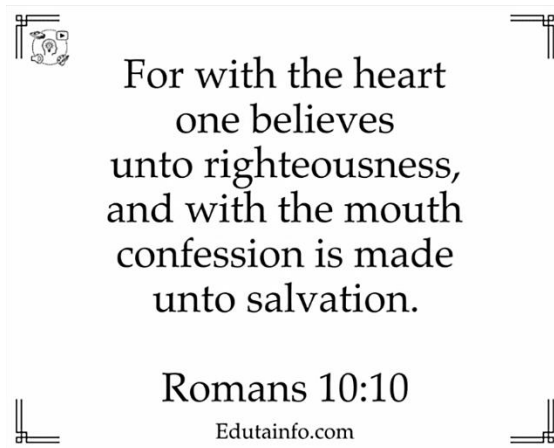
The Biblical Foundation for Confessing Jesus as Lord

The importance of confessing Jesus as Lord is clearly stated in Romans 10:9-10: "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." This passage outlines two essential components: belief in the heart and confession with the mouth. Together, these form the core of faith that leads to salvation.

However, this confession is not simply a verbal statement; it is the outward expression of an inward faith. It is rooted in a deep conviction that Jesus is not only the resurrected Savior but also the Lord over all creation. Acknowledging Jesus as Lord means recognizing His authority in our lives and committing to follow Him wholeheartedly.

Confession and Salvation

Jesus Himself emphasized the importance of publicly acknowledging Him. In Matthew 10:32-33, He says, “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” This powerful statement highlights that confessing Jesus is not just an individual act of faith—it is a public declaration of allegiance to Christ.



Confession of faith solidifies a believer’s commitment to Jesus. It is an act of obedience, demonstrating a willingness to stand for Christ regardless of the circumstances. This public declaration is an integral part of discipleship and reflects the believer’s identity in Christ, as well as their dedication to His teachings.

Confession as a Manifestation of Faith

In Philippians 2:9-11, Paul speaks of the exaltation of Jesus: “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in

heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” This passage points to a future reality where all creation will ultimately recognize Jesus as Lord. For believers, confessing Him now is an act of faith, demonstrating trust in His authority and redemptive work.

Confessing Jesus as Lord also acknowledges His role as the mediator between God and humanity. Hebrews 4:14-16 encourages believers to hold firmly to this confession, which grants them access to God’s grace and mercy through Jesus’ sacrifice.

The Impact of Confession on a Believer’s Life

When we confess Jesus as Lord, it signifies a deep transformation in our identity and purpose. As 2. Corinthians 5:17 explains, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” This new identity begins with the confession of Jesus’ lordship and continues through a life of discipleship.

Confessing Jesus as Lord calls us to live in obedience to His teachings. It is not a one-time statement but a commitment to align our thoughts, actions, and desires with God’s will. James 2:17 emphasizes, “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” True confession must be accompanied by a life that reflects the transformation Jesus brings. This confession is the starting point of a lifelong journey toward spiritual maturity and Christlikeness.

Confession and the Community of Believers

Confessing Jesus as Lord unites believers in a shared faith. Ephesians 4:4-6 highlights this unity: “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were

called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” Through this confession, believers are bound together in the body of Christ.

In a community of faith, the confession of Jesus as Lord becomes a source of encouragement and mutual growth. Hebrews 10:23-25 urges believers to “hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.” This communal confession strengthens the individual believer’s faith and fosters spiritual growth within the entire body of Christ.

Living Out the Confession of Jesus as Lord

Confessing Jesus as Lord is not merely a declaration; it’s a commitment to live according to His will. As believers, we are called to reflect Jesus’ character in every aspect of our lives. This means striving to live in obedience to His teachings, loving others as He has loved us, and growing in faith and maturity.

Confessing Jesus as Lord is a foundational part of Christian faith. It is a public acknowledgment of His divinity, authority, and role as Savior, marking the beginning of a transformed life. Through this confession, believers not only receive salvation but also enter into a lifelong journey of discipleship and spiritual growth.

As we boldly confess Jesus as Lord, we align ourselves with His will, embrace our identity in Him, and find purpose and direction in living out His teachings. Let us hold fast to this confession, not only with our words but also through our actions, as we walk in the fullness of life that comes from following Christ.

Confessing Jesus as Lord leads to a transformed life, marked by a deep understanding of His grace. One of the most powerful expressions of that grace is forgiveness—God’s gift to us through Christ, which we are then called to extend to others.

Chapter 17:

What is Forgiveness?

Forgiveness is a core principle of the Christian faith, embodying the grace and mercy God shows us through Jesus Christ. It is more than just letting go of anger; forgiveness removes guilt and restores the relationship between the one who has been wronged and the one who has caused harm. In Christianity, forgiveness reflects God's love and compassion and sets the foundation for how we relate to Him and to others.

God's Forgiveness and Our Relationship with Him

Our connection with God begins with His forgiveness. Due to sin, humanity stands guilty before a holy and righteous God, deserving judgment. But instead of leaving us in our guilt, God offers forgiveness through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus. Ephesians 1:7 emphasizes this: "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." This forgiveness is not something we can earn; it is a free gift given out of God's abundant grace.

Key Aspects of Forgiveness in Scripture

Several important truths about forgiveness are highlighted in the Bible.

1. **Forgiveness reflects God's character.** The Lord is defined by His readiness to forgive. Psalm 86:5 reminds us, "For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those

who call upon You.” Forgiveness flows naturally from God’s loving and merciful nature, showing His deep desire to reconcile with humanity.

2. **Forgiveness is made possible through Jesus Christ.** Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price for our sins, removing the barriers between us and God. Colossians 2:13-14 illustrates this beautifully: “And you, being dead in your trespasses... He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.” Jesus’ sacrifice wipes away our spiritual debt, offering us complete forgiveness.



3. **Forgiveness requires repentance and faith.** We must first acknowledge our wrongdoing and turn away from it. Acts 3:19 urges, “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” Repentance and faith in Jesus open the door to receiving God’s forgiveness.

4. **Forgiveness restores our relationship with God** by removing guilt and shame. Psalm 103:12 paints a picture of how complete this removal is: “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.” Through forgiveness, we are no longer separated from God but brought back into a loving relationship, free from condemnation.

Forgiveness and Our Relationships with Others

As people who have received forgiveness from God, we are called to extend that same grace to others. This is not always easy, but it is essential for maintaining peace and unity. Ephesians 4:32 encourages us, “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” By forgiving others, we reflect the grace God has shown us and build harmony within our relationships and the church.

Living a Life of Forgiveness

Forgiveness is at the heart of the gospel, shaping how we relate to God and those around us. Through Jesus, God offers us complete forgiveness, restoring us to Himself. As recipients of this incredible gift, we are called to forgive others, following the example of Christ and embodying the love and mercy, He offers to the world.

Having received forgiveness through Christ’s sacrifice, believers are given new life and hope. This hope is anchored in the resurrection of Jesus—a powerful demonstration of God’s victory over sin and death, which transforms both our present and eternal future.

Chapter 18:

The Resurrection of Jesus

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of the Christian faith, the defining event that gives meaning to the gospel. Without it, Christianity loses its power, purpose, and hope. The resurrection is not only a miraculous event in history but also the foundation for the believer's salvation and future.

Witnesses of the Resurrection

The Bible recounts several encounters with the risen Jesus, giving solid testimony to the reality of His resurrection. One of the most notable witnesses is Mary Magdalene. John 20:11-18 tells the story of Mary visiting the tomb early on the first day of the week, only to find it empty. In her sorrow, she meets Jesus, though at first she does not recognize Him. It is only when He speaks her name that she realizes she's in the presence of her risen Lord, making her the first to see and announce His resurrection.

The apostles also bear witness to the resurrection. In Luke 24:36-49, Jesus appears to them, showing His hands and feet, and even eating with them to prove He is not a ghost. Thomas, famously sceptical, demands proof. John 20:24-29 describes how Jesus meets Thomas' challenge by inviting him to touch His wounds. Thomas' response, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28), is a powerful statement of belief in the risen Christ.

Paul provides further evidence of the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, where he outlines a list of those who encountered Jesus after His resurrection, including Peter, the Twelve, and over 500 other witnesses at one time. Paul himself also met the risen Christ on the road to Damascus, a transformative experience that changed the course of his life and ministry (Acts 9:1-9).

The Importance of the Resurrection for Salvation

The resurrection is not just a remarkable event; it is central to the message of salvation. Paul makes this clear in 1. Corinthians 15:17, stating, “And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.” Without the resurrection, there is no assurance that Jesus’ death accomplished the forgiveness of sins. The resurrection proves that Jesus’ sacrifice was accepted by God, demonstrating His power over death and affirming the promise of eternal life.



Romans 4:25 explains that Jesus “was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.” This means that His resurrection guarantees that believers are declared righteous before God. Through

faith in Christ's death and resurrection, we are forgiven and justified, no longer condemned, but made right with God.

Moreover, the resurrection is the promise of our own future resurrection. Paul describes this in 1. Corinthians 15:20-22: "But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive." Jesus' resurrection is the first of many to come, assuring us that we, too, will be raised to eternal life.

Living as a Believer in Light of the Resurrection

Believing in the resurrection of Jesus changes how we live, giving us hope, purpose, and power as followers of Christ.

Hope comes from knowing that death is not the end. As Peter writes in 1. Peter 1:3-4, God has given us "a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away." This hope sustains us in difficult times, reminding us that our future is secure in Christ, no matter what we face in this life.

Purpose flows from the resurrection as well. In 1 Corinthians 15:58, Paul urges believers, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." Because Jesus has risen, everything we do for Him has eternal significance. We are called to live purposefully, dedicating our lives to His service, knowing that our efforts have lasting value.

Finally, the resurrection gives us **power** to live transformed lives. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us as believers. Ephesians

1:19-20 speaks of this “exceeding greatness of His power” that enables us to live holy lives and fulfil God’s will. Paul expresses his longing to experience this power fully in Philippians 3:10-11, where he writes of his desire “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” As Christians, we are empowered to overcome sin and live victoriously through the resurrection.

Living in the Reality of the Resurrection

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the heart of our faith, ensuring our salvation and inspiring our hope, purpose, and strength. The many biblical witnesses confirm its truth, while its significance for our salvation guarantees our right standing before God. As we live in light of this transformative event, we are called to walk in the hope, purpose, and power it brings, boldly proclaiming, “He is risen!” and living out the truth of the resurrection in every area of our lives.

Having explored the profound significance of Jesus’ resurrection, we now turn to the central themes of grace and mercy — gifts that flow directly from God’s love and are foundational to our salvation. These concepts help us understand the depth of God’s kindness and patience, shaping how we live and relate to others in light of His unearned favour and forgiveness.

Chapter 19:

Understanding Grace and Mercy

Grasping the concepts of grace and mercy is essential to understanding what it means to be saved and to live a life that reflects God's love. Both grace and mercy reveal the depth of God's kindness and His desire to redeem us, even when we least deserve it. Together, they form the heart of the Christian faith, offering forgiveness, transformation, and hope.

What Is Grace?

Grace is an incredible gift from God. It is His unearned favour and kindness, extended to us not because of anything we have done, but because of His deep love. Imagine receiving a beautiful present, not for a special occasion or achievement, but purely out of love — that is the nature of grace.

The Bible teaches that grace is essential for our salvation. Ephesians 2:8-9 explains, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” This means that salvation is not something we can earn through good deeds or moral living. Instead, it's a free gift offered through faith in Jesus Christ.

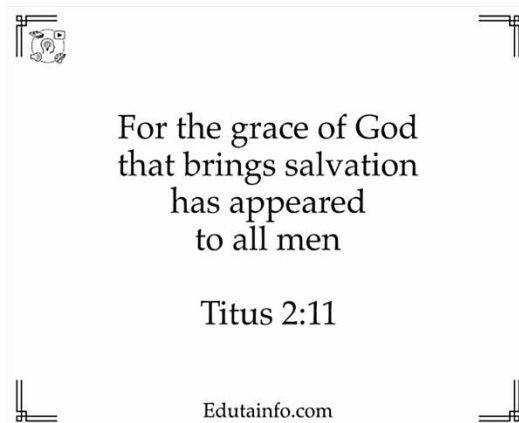
We have all sinned and fall short of God's standard (Romans 3:23). Sin separates us from God, but in His immense love, God provided a way for us to be reconciled to Him through His grace. This grace is most clearly seen in Jesus Christ, who came to rescue us from sin's consequences.

Jesus: The Ultimate Expression of Grace and Mercy

The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is the most powerful demonstration of God's grace. As John 1:17 states, "For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again, defeating death so that we could be restored to a relationship with God. This sacrificial act is the heart of God's grace.

But grace and mercy often go hand in hand. While grace involves receiving blessings we do not deserve, mercy is about being spared from the punishment we do deserve. A common saying sums it up: "Grace is when God gives us what we don't deserve, and mercy is when He doesn't give us what we do deserve."

One example of Jesus' mercy is found in the story of the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11). According to the law, she was condemned to die. Yet, instead of condemning her, Jesus says, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first" (John 8:7). When her accusers leave, Jesus shows her mercy: "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more" (John 8:11). Jesus not only withholds the punishment she deserves but also offers her grace — an opportunity for a new life.



Living in Grace and Mercy

Receiving God's grace and mercy is the beginning of a transformed life. Once we embrace these gifts, they start to shape how we live. As Titus 2:11-12 explains, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age." Grace empowers us to make choices that honor God and reflect His character.

Mercy also changes us. Since we have experienced God's mercy, we are called to show mercy to others. Luke 6:36 says, "Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful." And Colossians 3:13 urges us to forgive one another, just as Christ has forgiven us. Mercy is not just something we receive — it is something we extend to others in our daily lives.

Practical Applications of Grace and Mercy

1. **Forgiving Others:** Because we have received God's grace and mercy, we are equipped to forgive those who wrong us. Forgiveness is a powerful way to reflect God's love to the world.
2. **Showing Kindness:** Grace and mercy move us to be kind and generous. We can reflect God's love by doing good for others, even when they don't expect it or deserve it.
3. **Growing in Faith:** Grace and mercy are not just the beginning of our relationship with God; they are also the means by which we grow. Spending time in prayer, reading Scripture, and participating in a church community deepens our understanding of these gifts.

God's grace is patient and ongoing. It does not just cover our past mistakes — it continues to guide and teach us as we grow in our faith. His

mercy also reminds us that no matter how often we fall short, God is ready to forgive and help us get back on track.

Experiencing the Fullness of God's Love

God's grace and mercy are truly remarkable. As we grow in our understanding of these gifts, we experience the fullness of His love and find peace and assurance in His promises. Grace teaches us that salvation is secure, not because of anything we have done, but because of what God has done for us in Christ. Mercy reassures us that even when we fail, God's love and forgiveness remain constant.

As we embrace God's grace and mercy in our own lives, we are called to share these gifts with others. Through acts of forgiveness, kindness, and love, we become living testimonies of the grace and mercy that have transformed us.

As we grow in our understanding of God's grace and mercy, we find that these divine gifts not only provide salvation but also offer assurance. This assurance is a vital part of the Christian journey, giving us confidence, that God's promises are reliable and that our eternal security rests firmly in His hands.

Chapter 20:

Assurance of Salvation

One of the greatest comforts in the Christian faith is the assurance of salvation. Scripture gives us clear teachings and promises that help us know, without a doubt, that we are saved through Jesus Christ and can live confidently in the security of God's grace.

The Foundation of Assurance: Faith in Jesus Christ

The cornerstone of our assurance is faith in Jesus. The Bible makes it clear that salvation is a gift from God, received by faith, not something we can earn. Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." Our salvation does not depend on human effort or merit — it rests entirely on God's grace through faith in Jesus.

John 3:16 sums up the heart of this assurance: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." This well-known verse assures us that eternal life is guaranteed for all who believe in Jesus Christ. It is a promise that we can trust in completely.

The Witness of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit plays a vital role in confirming our salvation. Scripture teaches that the Holy Spirit dwells within believers, affirming their iden-

tity as children of God. Romans 8:16 says, “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” This internal testimony of the Holy Spirit offers a deep, personal assurance that we belong to God.

Ezekiel 36:26: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Ephesians 1:13-14 further explains, “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” The Holy Spirit is described as a seal and a deposit, securing our future inheritance and guaranteeing that we are God’s possession. This sealing is a powerful sign of the permanence and security of our salvation.

The Promises of God’s Word

Another source of assurance comes from the promises found in God’s Word. Throughout the Bible, God gives us unshakable guarantees about the security of those who trust in Him. In John 10:27-29, Jesus assures us, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.” This promise affirms that our eternal life is secure in Jesus’ hands, and nothing can take that away.

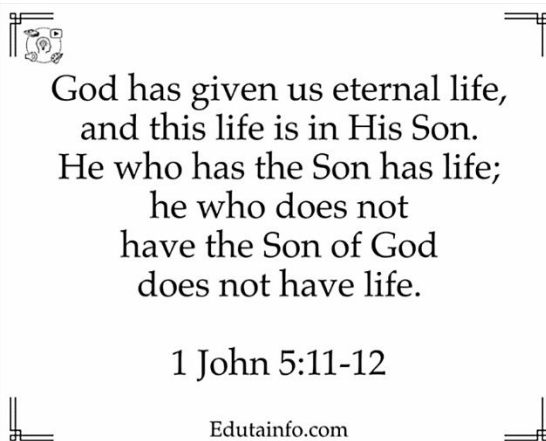
1 John 5:11-13 also offers reassurance: “And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.” John wrote these words to give believers certainty about their salvation, underscoring that eternal life is found in Jesus and that we can know with confidence that we possess it.

Evidence of a Transformed Life

While salvation is received by grace through faith, the Bible also teaches that true faith results in a transformed life. This change is a sign of the Holy Spirit’s work within us. James 2:17 explains, “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” Genuine faith produces evidence in our lives, not as a way to earn salvation but as a natural result of the Spirit’s transforming power.

Galatians 5:22-23 describes the “fruit of the Spirit” as evidence of this transformation: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” These qualities are marks of a life changed by the Holy Spirit, showing that our faith is authentic and alive.



Perseverance in Faith

The Bible also teaches that those who are truly saved will persevere in their faith. Philippians 1:6 offers encouragement in this: “Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” This verse assures us that God, who initiated our salvation, will continue His work in us until it is fully accomplished.

Hebrews 12:1-2 urges us to “run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.” This perseverance in faith is not something we achieve on our own; it is the result of God’s sustaining grace, which enables us to continue trusting in Him.

Overcoming Doubts and Fears

It is normal for believers to face moments of doubt or fear about their salvation. The Bible provides comfort and reassurance for these times. Romans 8:38-39 is a powerful reminder of God’s unbreakable love: “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

This unshakable assurance is rooted in God’s character and His promises, not in our feelings or circumstances. When doubts arise, we can turn to Scripture and find the certainty we need in God’s unwavering faithfulness and the security of His salvation.

The Certainty of Salvation

The assurance of salvation is grounded in several truths: the finished work of Jesus Christ, the promises of God's Word, the witness of the Holy Spirit, the evidence of a transformed life, and the perseverance of our faith. This assurance is not based on human effort or performance, but on the unchanging character and grace of God.

Through faith in Jesus, we can be confident in our eternal security, knowing that our salvation is safe in the hands of a loving and faithful God. This confidence gives us peace, joy, and the strength to live out our faith, trusting that nothing can separate us from His love.

With the assurance of salvation firmly established, we now turn to the essential role of the Holy Spirit in the life of every believer. The Holy Spirit not only seals our salvation but also empowers and guides us, making it possible to live out our faith with confidence and purpose.

Chapter 21:

The Role of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit plays a vital role in the believer's salvation journey. His presence and work are essential, from the moment of conviction to empowering us to live out the Christian life. Understanding the Holy Spirit's role can deepen our relationship with God, allowing us to rely more fully on His guidance and power in every aspect of our lives.

Conviction of Sin

One of the Holy Spirit's first roles in our lives is to convict us of sin. As Jesus said in John 16:8, "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." This conviction is not meant to condemn but to bring us to repentance. It is the Holy Spirit who opens our eyes to see where we have fallen short and points us toward the grace and forgiveness available through Jesus. When we feel that inner stirring, urging us to acknowledge our wrongs, it is the Spirit leading us toward a better path.

Regeneration

Beyond conviction, the Holy Spirit is responsible for regenerating our hearts. This is where the transformation begins. Titus 3:5 explains, "He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit." When we respond to the Spirit's conviction with faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit gives us a new heart and a new start. Jesus called this being

“born again” in John 3:3-6, describing a spiritual rebirth that aligns us with God’s will. This inner renewal is not just a surface change — it is a profound transformation that reshapes our very nature.

Indwelling Presence

Once we are regenerated, the Holy Spirit makes His home within us. 1. Corinthians 6:19 reminds us, “Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?” The Holy Spirit’s indwelling presence is God’s promise that He is always with us. His presence offers guidance, comfort, and strength throughout our spiritual journey. With the Spirit living in us, we are never alone in our walk with Christ, no matter how challenging life becomes.

Empowerment for Christian Living

Living the Christian life is far beyond our own strength. It is the Holy Spirit who empowers us to live according to God’s will. Acts 1:8 promises, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” This power is not only for sharing the gospel — it is for every part of our daily walk with God. The Holy Spirit equips us to overcome temptation, stand firm in faith, and live in a way that reflects God’s character.



... the Helper, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father
will send in My name,
He will teach you all things,
and bring to your remembrance
all things that I said to you.

John 14:26

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Guidance and Teaching

The Holy Spirit also acts as our guide and teacher. Jesus said in John 14:26, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” The Spirit helps us understand the deeper truths of Scripture and reminds us of what Jesus taught. He leads us into all truth, revealing God’s will for our lives and helping us apply His Word to the challenges we face. With His guidance, we can discern right from wrong and navigate life with wisdom.

Bearing Fruit

As we submit to the Holy Spirit’s work, we begin to bear spiritual fruit. Galatians 5:22-23 lists the qualities that the Spirit produces in us: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” These virtues are the evidence of the Holy Spirit’s presence within us. They reflect the character of Christ and show the transformative power of the Spirit in our lives. As we grow in

these qualities, we become more like Jesus, showing the world what a life surrendered to God looks like.

Assurance of Salvation

The Holy Spirit also provides assurance of our salvation. Romans 8:16 declares, “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” This inner testimony gives us peace and confidence, knowing that we belong to God and that our salvation is secure. The Spirit reminds us that we are held by God’s grace, even when we doubt or feel distant. This assurance is a powerful comfort in our walk of faith.

Spiritual Gifts

Along with the fruit of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to believers. These gifts are meant to equip us for ministry and build up the body of Christ. 1. Corinthians 12:4-7 explains, “There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.” These gifts, whether teaching, serving, or encouraging, are tools the Spirit uses to strengthen the church and advance God’s kingdom.

Living by the Spirit

To live by the Spirit means to continually walk in step with Him. Galatians 5:25 encourages us, “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” This requires daily surrender to His leading and a willingness to follow wherever He guides. Living by the Spirit means being sensitive to His promptings, obedient to His direction, and dependent on His strength.

It is a lifestyle of trusting that the Holy Spirit knows what is best for us and allowing Him to shape our choices and actions.

The role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer is indispensable. From convicting us of sin to regenerating our hearts, from indwelling us to empowering us, the Spirit is at work in every aspect of our spiritual journey. He teaches us, produces fruit in our lives, gives us assurance of our salvation, and equips us with spiritual gifts. As we learn to rely more fully on the Holy Spirit, we experience the fullness of what it means to walk with God, empowered by His presence and guided by His wisdom. Yielding to the Holy Spirit is the key to living a victorious and fruitful Christian life.

Chapter 22:

Conclusion: How to Get Saved

Now you know something incredibly important: that the Almighty God, who is perfectly righteous and holy, wants a relationship with you—even though you are a sinner. You understand that without salvation, your sins separate you from God, and there is no hope of spending eternity with Him on your own. But you have also come to see that Jesus Christ died and shed His blood to take your place and give you the chance for eternal redemption.

You've realized the seriousness of your sin and your need to repent. You now know that only through Jesus — who offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice — can the wrath of God against sin be satisfied. It is not your actions, your words, or your intentions that bring you peace with God. It is only through the cross, and through faith in Jesus Christ, who was raised from the dead by God, that reconciliation becomes possible.

You understand that it is by God's mercy alone that forgiveness is offered when you truly repent and ask Him to cleanse you from sin. The Holy Spirit is the one who convicts you and brings you to this understanding — and once you believe, the Spirit of God will dwell in you, giving you assurance and guiding your new life in Christ.

You also understand that confessing Jesus as Lord is not just a private thought — it is a public declaration. It means surrendering your life to Him. And when you do that, when you believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord and your Savior, you can have full assurance that you are saved.

As it is written in 1 John 5:11–13: “And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”

Let’s pray again — this time with a better understanding of who God is, and with sincere faith in Jesus Christ, trusting Him who gave His life to bring us forgiveness, atonement, and peace with God.

Dear God, I come to You knowing that I am a sinner in need of Your forgiveness. I realise that it is by faith alone I get saved and not of my own doing.

I believe that Jesus Christ, Your Son, died on the cross for my sins and that You raised Him again so that I could have eternal life.

I confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord, and I surrender my life to Him now.

Thank You for loving me and for making a way for me to be saved. I repent of my sins and ask You to wash me clean. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit, guide me in truth, and help me live the rest of my life for You.

Thank You for the gift of salvation. Thank You that, through Jesus, I am now reconciled to You. I believe Your promise that whoever has the Son has life. I place my faith and trust in Jesus Christ alone.

*In Jesus’ name I pray,
Amen.*

Remember, it is not the words themselves but the faith in your heart that matters. If you prayed this prayer and meant it, welcome to God's family!

Please read the prepared guide in the next section of this book helping you with the first steps on your journey as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

SECTION 2

A Guide for the First Steps as a Newly Born-Again Believer

Congratulations on your decision to follow Jesus Christ! Becoming a born-again believer is the most significant step you will ever take in your life.

This is a short guide briefly helping you with the first steps on your journey as a disciple of Jesus Christ. As you embark on this new journey, it is essential to understand what it means to grow in your faith, develop a deeper relationship with Jesus, and live out your calling as a disciple.

This guide covers seven key aspects of your journey, including:

1. spiritual growth,
2. reading the Bible,
3. praying,
4. joining a church community,
5. sharing your faith,
6. discovering God's plan for your life, and
7. following the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 23:

Growing in the Faith

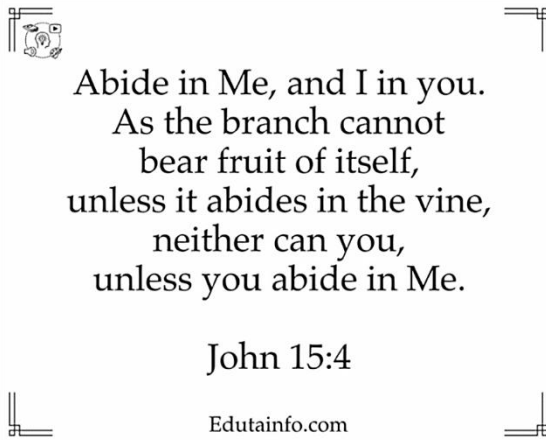
Spiritual growth is a key part of your new life in Christ. The Apostle Peter urges believers to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2. Peter 3:18). This process of becoming more like Jesus and deepening your understanding of His teachings is ongoing. It takes dedication, a desire to learn, and a willingness to be transformed by God.

A crucial step in growing your faith is spending time in God’s Word. The Bible is the foundation of our faith and offers guidance, wisdom, and encouragement. As 2 Timothy 3:16-17 states, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” Making it a daily habit to read and meditate on Scripture allows you to better understand God’s character, His promises, and His purpose for your life.

Developing a Relationship with Jesus

Another essential part of spiritual growth is developing a personal relationship with Jesus. He invites us to know Him deeply and experience His love and presence. In John 15:4-5, Jesus says, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me

you can do nothing.” This connection with Christ is vital for growth and fruitfulness in your walk of faith.



To strengthen your relationship with Jesus, prayer is indispensable. Prayer is more than just asking for help; it is a conversation with God where you can share your heart, seek His guidance, and express gratitude. Philippians 4:6-7 encourages believers, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Regular prayer not only draws you closer to God but also brings peace and strengthens your faith, helping you grow in your relationship with Him.

Chapter 24:

Reading the Bible

The Bible, God’s inspired Word, is essential for spiritual growth and should be read regularly. As Psalm 119:105 says, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Through the Scriptures, you receive guidance and discover God’s will for your life. Reading the Bible in book format, where you can underline verses that speak to you is better than reading the Bible in an app or on another device. Reading the Bible on your phone or other electronic device or having an audible Bible read it for you is only advisable as a supplement to reading a physical copy of the Bible.

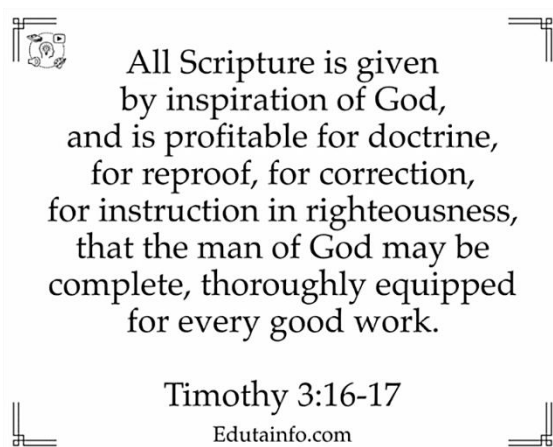
Why and How to Read the Bible

As a new believer, familiarizing yourself with the entire Bible is important, but beginning with the New Testament is advisable and can be especially helpful. The New Testament focuses on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the foundation of the Christian faith. The Gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and particularly John — recount Jesus’ ministry and teachings, giving you a deeper understanding of who He is.

Starting With the New Testament

In John 20:31, the purpose of the Gospel is clearly stated: “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

The Gospels (common name for the 4 books: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) are filled with Jesus' parables, miracles, and sermons, which are essential to understanding His mission. A verse like John 3:16 captures the heart of the Gospel: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." This passage reflects God's immense love and the gift of salvation through faith in Christ.



The Heart of the Gospel Message

The Gospel of John stands out for new believers because of its emphasis on Jesus' divine nature. From the opening verses, John 1:1-3, Jesus is introduced as the eternal Word, fully God and fully with God. Later, in John 14:6, Jesus boldly declares, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me," pointing to the essential role Jesus plays in our salvation.

Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament

While the New Testament clearly portrays Jesus' life and ministry, the Old Testament offers rich background and context. It contains prophecies about the coming Messiah, which Jesus fulfilled. For instance, Isaiah 53:5 foretells His suffering: "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." Understanding these prophecies adds depth to your knowledge of Jesus' mission and sacrifice.

Tools for Studying the Bible

To make the most of your time in Scripture, consider using a Bible reading plan that covers the entire Bible or focuses on specific themes. Study aids like commentaries, concordances, and Bible dictionaries can help you explore the meaning of different passages.

Memorizing key verses and meditating on them throughout your day will also deepen your understanding. Psalm 1:2-3 speaks to the power of meditating on God's Word: "But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper."

By engaging with Scripture, you allow God's Word to transform your heart and mind. Romans 12:2 reminds us, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Through regular Bible reading, you strengthen your faith and gain the spiritual nourishment needed to live in alignment with God's will. Starting with the New Testament, especially the Gospel of John, lays a solid foundation for your journey in faith.

Chapter 25:

The Power and Importance of Prayer

Prayer is a vital connection to God, offering guidance, comfort, and a way to express gratitude and seek His help. Throughout the Bible, the importance of prayer is underscored as a key component of a growing spiritual life.

In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus provides a foundational model of prayer known as the Lord's Prayer: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen"

This prayer contains various important parts of a prayer. We can recite it as many do, but Jesus gave us this model of a prayer, teaching us not only to beg God for our needs, but teaching us that when we communicate with God, we are to honour God, seek His will, rely on Him for our needs, ask for forgiveness as we forgive others, seek His protection and give Him glory. It is a model for meaningful prayers that align our desires with God's.

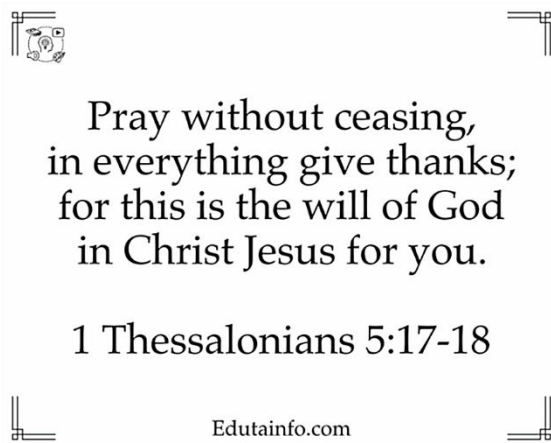
Making Prayer a Daily Habit

1. Thessalonians 5:17-18 encourages believers to "pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Developing a daily habit of prayer nurtures an ongoing awareness

of God's presence. By dedicating time each day — whether in the morning, throughout the day, or at night — you can maintain a constant connection with God, keeping your heart aligned with His will.

Prayer from the Heart

True prayer comes from the heart, not just recited words. Philippians 4:6-7 reminds us: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Approach God with openness and honesty, sharing your worries, hopes, and desires, trusting Him with all that is on your mind.



Growing in Your Prayer Life

As you grow in prayer, James 5:16 emphasizes the power behind it: “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” To deepen your prayer life, consider keeping a journal of your prayers and the ways God

answers them. This can help you recognize God's hand in your life and provide encouragement to remain faithful in prayer.

The Holy Spirit and Prayer

Romans 8:26-27 assures us that when we struggle with prayer; the Holy Spirit is there to guide us: "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." The Holy Spirit not only assists in our prayers but also intercedes on our behalf, ensuring that our prayers align with God's will.

Examples of Prayer in the Bible

The Bible offers many examples of prayer, showing how essential it is to a life of faith. In Daniel 6:10, Daniel faithfully prayed three times a day, even in the face of persecution. In Acts 2:42, the early church devoted themselves to prayer and teaching, demonstrating that prayer was central to the lives of the apostles. King David, who wrote many of the Psalms, expressed his dependence on God through heartfelt prayers. Psalm 5:3 captures this devotion: "My voice You shall hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning I will direct it to You, and I will look up."

Encouragement to Persist in Prayer

Jesus also emphasizes persistence in prayer in the parable of the persistent widow in Luke 18:1-8. Through this story, Jesus illustrates the importance of perseverance in prayer, showing that God responds to those who continually seek Him: "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?" Persistence reflects our trust in God's timing and His perfect plan for our lives.

Prayer as a Means of Spiritual Warfare

Prayer is also crucial in spiritual warfare. Ephesians 6:18 commands, “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.” Through prayer, we seek God’s strength and protection, standing firm against the forces of darkness.

Chapter 26:

Why You Should Join a Christ-Centered Church

The Bible underscores the importance of believers gathering as a community of faith. Hebrews 10:25 urges us, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” This call to meet regularly is not just about personal spiritual growth, but also about supporting and encouraging one another as we anticipate Christ’s return.

The Blessing of Gathering Together

The church is not defined by a building, but by the collective body of believers who come together in worship. Jesus explained in Matthew 18:20, “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” The act of gathering is intentional, allowing believers to experience God’s presence, grow in faith, and unite in purpose.

The Church: A Place for Growth and Sound Teaching

The church plays a key role in fulfilling God’s will on earth, serving as a place where believers are equipped for service. Ephesians 4:11-13 teaches, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all

come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

God’s mandate for gathering together is clear. Psalm 133:1 celebrates the unity found in corporate worship: “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

When believers come together in worship, the atmosphere is often charged with spiritual power, bringing about healing, transformation, and divine breakthroughs.

Experiencing God’s Presence and Power

A healthy church is characterized by sound doctrine, teaching the truth of God’s Word. 1 Timothy 4:1 warns against abandoning the faith and following false teachings, making it essential to belong to a church that preaches biblical truth. The church should regularly read and teach from Scripture, ensuring that believers are grounded in God’s Word, including especially the preaching of the Gospel of Salvation – in short all these: the fall of man, sin, God’s love, the substitution of Jesus for our atonement, repenting from sin and surrendering our life to Jesus Christ. If a church deviates from this, it’s important to seek a place that faithfully teaches the Bible.

Seeking a Bible-Teaching, Christ-Centered Church

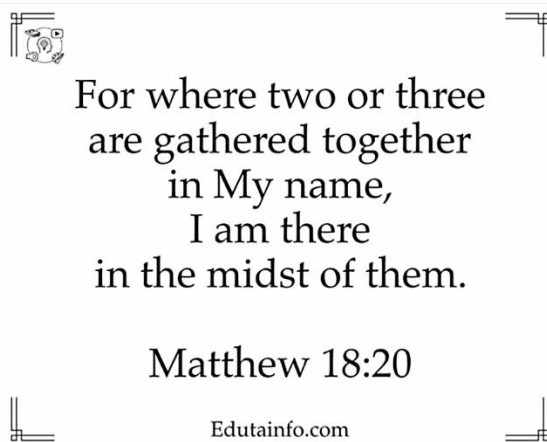
A church with clear vision and direction helps guide believers toward their purpose. Proverbs 29:18 reminds us, “Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint.” A strong church vision provides believers with focus and motivation to fulfil God’s mission.

While God’s presence is everywhere, a church that earnestly seeks Him often experiences His manifest presence, as promised in Exodus 33:14:

“My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” Experiencing God’s presence in corporate worship is a powerful confirmation of His approval and support.

Belief in the supernatural is another hallmark of a Christ-centered church. Mark 16:17-18 declares that signs and wonders will follow those who believe in Jesus. Churches that embrace this reality align with Christ’s mission and demonstrate the power of God in practical, life-changing ways.

Prayer is foundational in a healthy church, as Isaiah 56:7 affirms: “For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.” A church committed to prayer cultivates a community that seeks God earnestly and regularly, empowering both individuals and the congregation as a whole.



Prayer, Protection, and Spiritual Growth

Joining a church provides spiritual covering and protection. Acts 20:28 advises church leaders to watch over the flock, caring for them as shepherds. This care extends to the congregation, offering a supportive environment where believers can grow and thrive spiritually.

A church community also helps individuals deepen their personal relationship with God. James 4:8 encourages, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” Within the church, believers receive guidance on how to cultivate intimacy with God through worship, teaching, and fellowship.

Churches provide the training and resources necessary for spiritual growth. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 affirms that all Scripture is “profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” Through teaching and discipleship, churches equip believers to fulfil God’s calling on their lives.

Spiritual maturity is fostered through regular church involvement. Colossians 1:28-29 speaks of presenting believers mature in Christ, a goal that churches strive toward by teaching wisdom and truth. Walking in supernatural power, as described in Acts 1:8, is also cultivated within a church community that believes in the work of the Holy Spirit.

Families benefit greatly from being part of a Christ-centered church, where they learn to live according to God’s ways. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 emphasizes the importance of teaching God’s commandments to children, fostering strong, faith-filled families.

Churches provide a space where joy, peace, and love can be experienced in abundance. Romans 15:13 prays for believers to be filled with hope, joy, and peace as they trust in God. This environment encourages spiritual growth and emotional well-being.

The Strength and Encouragement of Fellowship

Finally, the fellowship found within a church offers continual encouragement. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 urges believers to build one another up, reinforcing the importance of community – “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are doing.”. Sharing this journey with other believers strengthens your faith and provides support during challenging times.

Chapter 27:

Sharing Your Faith

As a disciple of Jesus, you are called to share the good news of salvation with others. Jesus' Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 instructs us, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age."

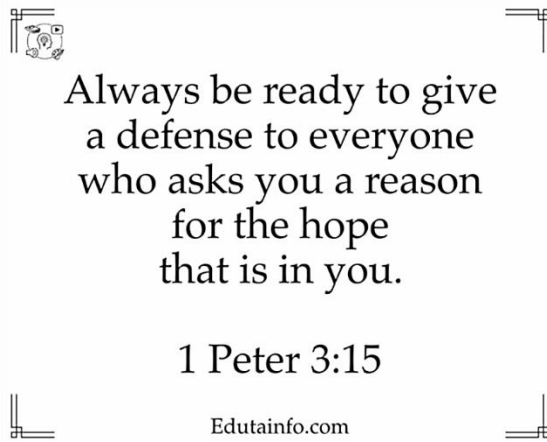
The Call to Share the Good News

Sharing your faith can be done in various ways, from having personal conversations with friends and family to participating in evangelistic outreaches and missions. Be prepared to share your testimony — how you came to faith in Christ and what He has done in your life.

Sharing Your Testimony with Others

1 Peter 3:15 encourages us, "But set apart the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear".

Sharing the Gospel cannot only be done by actions. Some say "Actions speak loudest", but alone actions are not enough. The Bible teaches in Romans 10:17 that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." This clearly indicates that we need to speak and refer to Gods word the Bible when we talk with and witness to people.



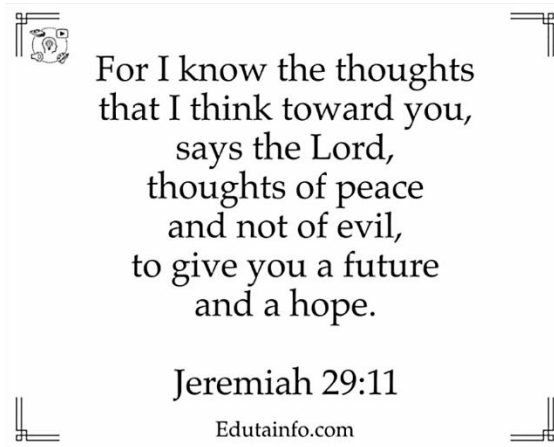
Speaking God's Word Boldly

This is why knowing the Bible is important. It is a tool of sharing the Gospel, as commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ. We do not need to convince people. The Holy Spirit is the one doing the convincing, according to John 16:8. We plant the seed and God will work on the heart of the listener. When people are ready to ask for forgiveness and surrender their life to Jesus Christ, we will of course help them by showing the steps leading to salvation.

Chapter 28:

God's Amazing Plan for Your Life

God has an extraordinary plan for each of His children. Ephesians 2:10 reminds us, **“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”** Understanding and fulfilling this plan begins with seeking His will through prayer, studying the Bible, and staying attuned to the Holy Spirit’s guidance.



Seeking God's Will for Your Life

As your relationship with God deepens, He will gradually reveal His purposes for your life. These callings could manifest in various ways, whether through service within the church, contributing to your local community, or even making an impact globally.

No matter the role, God promises to equip you for the work He has set before you. Jeremiah 29:11 offers a comforting reminder of His intentions:

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

Trust in His plan, knowing it is both good and purposeful.

Chapter 29:

The Guidance of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is essential in the life of every believer. Jesus assured His disciples that the Holy Spirit would come to guide, teach, and empower them. In John 14:26, Jesus said, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

The Holy Spirit resides within every believer, offering wisdom, strength, and direction.

Living by Guidance of the Holy Spirit

To be attuned to the Holy Spirit’s guidance, it’s important to cultivate a lifestyle marked by prayer, worship, and obedience to God’s Word. Galatians 5:16-18 encourages us, “Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” As you allow the Holy Spirit to transform your heart and mind, you will begin to bear the fruit described in Galatians 5:22-23: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”



As a newly born-again believer, you are embarking on a remarkable journey of faith and transformation.

By growing in your faith, nurturing a personal relationship with Jesus, reading the Bible, praying, joining a church, sharing your faith, and following the Holy Spirit's guidance, you will step into the abundant life God has intended for you.

This journey is a lifelong walk, and God will be with you every step of the way. Embrace His love, seek His will, and trust His promises daily. As a Christian and child of God, you can now live in anticipation of Christ's return.

Chapter 30:

The Return of Jesus

A Joyful Hope for Christians

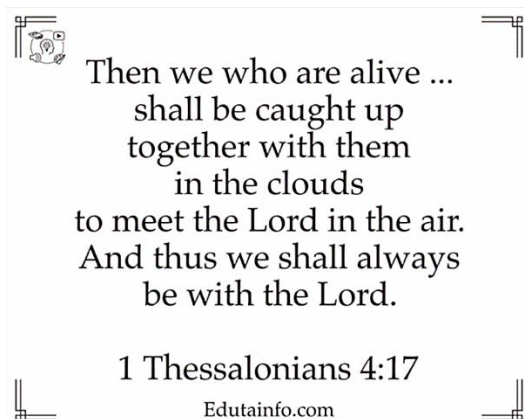
The return of Jesus Christ, often called the Second Coming, is a deeply anticipated event in the Christian faith. Looking forward to Jesus' return brings believers hope, joy, and a sense of purpose. Jesus spoke frequently about His return, offering both comfort and direction to His followers.

In John 14:1-3, Jesus reassures His disciples with a powerful promise: "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." This promise offers hope that Jesus is preparing a place for His followers in Heaven and will return to take them with Him.

In Matthew 24:30, He describes the majestic nature of His return: "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." His return will be visible and filled with splendour, an event that will be witnessed by all.

Believers eagerly anticipate the return of Christ for many reasons. His coming marks the final victory over sin, death, and suffering. Revelation 21:4 paints a beautiful picture of this: "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.

There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” This vision of eternal peace and joy motivates us to live faithfully as we await the coming Kingdom.



The return of Jesus also promises a profound reunion with Him. Paul captures this moment of hope in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17: “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” This moment of eternal togetherness with Christ fills believers with joy and peace.

Living in Anticipation of His Return

While waiting for Jesus’ return, Christians are called to live in readiness and faithfulness. Jesus teaches in Matthew 24:42, “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.” Being watchful means living out one’s faith with dedication, consistently following His teachings.

The parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1-13) illustrates the importance of staying spiritually prepared. The wise virgins, who kept their lamps

filled with oil, were ready when the bridegroom arrived. In contrast, the foolish ones were unprepared and missed the opportunity. This parable emphasizes the need for believers to remain vigilant, with their faith alive and strong.

Encouraging One Another with the Hope of His Return

In this time of anticipation, Christians are encouraged to strengthen and support each other. Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us to spur one another on in love and good works as we see the day of Christ's return drawing near: "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." The hope of His return also inspires believers to share the Gospel with others.

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commands His followers, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." This call to spread the message of salvation is essential as we prepare for His return.

As Christians we have a lot of work to do for God, and we do not need to worry about anything, as God takes care of us, as surely as we bring our cares and worries to Him and surrender our life into His hands.

I pray that God will bless you, as you start to live your life as a follower and disciple of Jesus Christ. I hope that this book has led you to Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and if you follow the steps outlined in the last part of the book, you will grow into a closer fellowship with Jesus Christ, serving Him as your Lord and Saviour in your daily life.

About the Author

Martin Reinert grew up in a Christian home, where faith was part of everyday life. When he was 8 years old, his faith turned into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ—something he now hopes to share with others through writing. Martin believes in using simple words to explain big truths, and he writes with the goal of helping others find clarity and hope in the message of the Bible.

He founded Edutainfo to publish content that encourages spiritual growth and personal development. While *How to Get Saved* is his first book, he plans to create more resources for both children and adults in the future—always with the same heart: to educate, inspire, and point people to Jesus.

When he's not writing, Martin enjoys learning new things and having meaningful conversations about life and faith. He hopes this book will help you draw closer to God and understand what salvation really means.

Recommended Reading

The Bible, (Choose the New King James Version – NKJV)

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How To Get SAVED

How to Get Saved

Understanding Salvation: 21 Biblical Concepts Explained

Are you wondering what it really means to be saved — or how to explain salvation to someone else in a clear and simple way?

In *How to Get Saved*, Martin Reinert walks you step by step through the Bible's message of salvation. You'll explore essential topics like sin, repentance, grace, faith, atonement, the Holy Spirit, and what it truly means to follow Jesus.

Whether you're seeking God for the first time or looking to deepen your understanding of the gospel, this book offers practical insight rooted in Scripture. Each chapter builds on the last, leading you from confusion to clarity — and ultimately to a joyful relationship with Jesus Christ.

Written in a warm, straightforward style, this book is ideal for personal reading, evangelism, or Bible study groups.

No fluff. No jargon. Just the truth about how to get saved — and why it matters for eternity.



ISBN 978-8-79-761953-7

